

Gentleman John kindly lifts the tone

In these crazy, *fin de siècle* days, moods change so abruptly in politics without reason given. Last Thursday John Major, 53, sounded tired and exasperated: Tony Blair, shrilly confident.

Yesterday the Prime Minister, 54, came to the House as warm and funny as we have seen him. Mr Blair sounded cautious, measured and low-key. It was as though a quarter of a century had slipped into Mr Major's tea, while Mr Blair had come off the cocaine. (Not, we hasten to add, that the Labour leader ever was on cocaine: Blair snorts a mysterious new drug called Control.)

The PM was in the chamber to report on the European

Council Meeting in Turin. It was all very mellow. Mr Major had "underlined" this and would "pursue" that. He would "outline" this, "put forward" that and "seek" the other. He would be looking for changes to the Article on Britain's opt-out from the social chapter.

We chuckled at the idea of our premier "looking for" amendments to the Article, like a bunch of keys. Gosh, wherever did I put them? On the hall table? As to his chances of finding these mysterious changes, Major was silent. But it is comforting to know the search is on.

It was news about European help with the BSE crisis that had filled an empty Monday



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

chamber. Here, too, Major's mood was new. He was doing his best (we were to understand) and was by no means pessimistic as to the outcome. He would keep us posted, but regretted that he might be on holiday by the time he had anything to report. Negotiation was to be conducted "speedily".

There is something crisply mannered about Major-speak: one gets fond of it. We proceed speedily rather than fast, using "for" where others say "because". Where a Great

Western Railway notice would print the advice *Gentlemen Are Kindly Requested To Lift The Seat*, our PM might actually say this. When Major says "shown", one suppresses the instinct to write "shown".

Tony Blair was conciliatory. Tory accusations that his contribution to the mad cow crisis has been inflammatory could hardly have been levelled yesterday. He could not, however, quite resist the temptation to moralise. "Surely the lesson of the weekend," he told Major, had been that being nice to

Europeans pays. Mr Blair would not say *Gentlemen Are Kindly Requested To Lift The Seat*, but "Surely the lesson of life is that we should leave this lavatory in the condition in which we expect to find it. To do less is to undermine those shared values in which each has a vital stake."

Next, Major told Paddy Ashdown that "being in a kindly mode" he would not quote Liberal Democrats. One imagines John cooing over the candlelight to Norma: "Being in a passionate mode, my love..."

Answering questions, Major was teasing. He was examining "some novel ways", he said in his Mystic Meg voice, "of ensuring that we find the

right beast". He meant the right cow to slaughter. But he would not tell us what these novel ways were. Ducking stools? Is an equivalent of the medieval witchfinder to be hired?

Turning to fisheries, Major told John Redwood: "The fish would be so overfished that there would be no fishing industry left." What an overfished fish looks like was as mysterious as the novel ways of finding the beast.

Tony Banks (Lab, Newham NW) was rude about Baroness Thatcher and so deserved this Major put-down: "I'm prepared to consider what the Hon Gentleman says, but not for long, and after considering it I've rejected his proposal."

IAN WALDE

'Demeaning, inhumane' conditions

Holloway inmate had to attend court in nightie

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

A PRISONER at Holloway jail was forced to attend court in her night clothes because no other clothing was available, it was disclosed yesterday.

Underwear and shoes were not available at the jail, for instance, for inmates who were homeless or were foreigners whose clothes were seized when they were arrested.

The plight of inmates in the north London jail, the largest in the country for women, is disclosed in the annual report of the Board of Visitors published today. The report constitutes an devastating indictment of the jail's management and the regime.

The unnamed prisoner who went to court in a pink nylon nightdress was a foreign national being held on remand, but the severe shortage of clothing affected many more women. The Women's Royal Voluntary Service had been forced to stop supplying clothing because its storeroom was shut for a year ago, and a parcels office at which clothing could be left was shut for long periods.

"No alternative plans were made and a degrading situation developed for the women. Even basic underwear and shoes were unavailable; one woman attended court in a nightie and negligee because she had nothing else to wear. There is still no clothing provision, and many women are dependent on the charity of staff and volunteers," the report states.

The report is published



Ramsbotham: team withdrawn in protest

three months after Sir David Ramsbotham, the new Chief Inspector of Prisons, pulled his team out of the jail in protest at the conditions.

It says that substantial amounts of inmates' cash disappeared from registered mail being sent from within the jail, and money was also missing from inmates' cash arriving on the wings.

Prisoners were regularly locked in their cells for more than 20 hours a day, with a lock-up from 3.30pm-7.30am, and at weekends, prisoners only allowed out of their cells for as little as one hour a day.

"It is demeaning, inhumane and damaging to the mental and physical health to keep women isolated and locked in their cells with little respite. Women are not prepared for return to the community and officers are demotivated when they feel they are being treated as turnkeys," the report states.

Six top-security inmates

were held on remand at the jail during last year in single cells without viewing hatches. The report says that these women were routinely locked in their cells for three or four days over the weekends with only a few minutes outside.

One woman was held in these conditions for six months, which meant that, over the three to four days, it would be impossible for her to have a shower or bath or wash her hair. A young woman, later killed, became a suicide risk.

In October, four prisoners were found with lice in their hair, but no officers on the wings had shampoo with which to treat the infestation and neither did the jail shop. Within 24 hours, lice had infested the bed linen in a dormitory and five days later, 19 prisoners had lice in their hair.

Rachel Palmer, the outgoing chairman of the Board of Visitors, said last night: "Things at the jail were pretty horrifying and pretty worrying. The failure of the regime led to inmates being locked up, idle and isolated. This was damaging to the ethos of the prison and the lives on inmates. Holloway failed to meet its obligations to care for women, and prepare them for life in the community and as a result inmates were degraded."

Last December, Janet King, the governor, was transferred to Prison Service headquarters and replaced by Mike Sheldrick. According to sources at the jail, Mr Sheldrick has improved conditions and frequently visits the wings, talking with inmates.



Sir Bobby, left, and Jack Charlton yesterday at the funeral of their mother

Charlton brothers bury the first lady of football

By A STAFF REPORTER

SIR BOBBY CHARLTON and his brother Jack yesterday carried the coffin of their mother Cissie, dubbed the First Lady of Football, at her funeral in their home town of Ashington in Northumberland.

The 1966 England World Cup-winning players and their brothers Gordon and Tom helped to act as pallbearers at St John's Church, where more than 250 people packed the church and as many again assembled outside to listen to the service relayed by loudspeakers. Many more stood to pay their last respects as the cortege wound through the former mining town.

Sir Bobby's wife, Norma, was also present in the large family gathering in spite of media reports about a cool relationship between her and her mother-in-law.

A wreath of chrysanthemums shaped into a football was mounted on top of the hearse as the coffin was borne from the church to the strains of the Wembley hymn *Abide With Me*.

During the service, tribute was paid to Mrs Charlton by Vince Gledhill, a local journalist and author of her bio-



Cissie Charlton: started coaching in her seventies

graphy, who said she was often called the First Lady of Football "and quite rightly so - the game was in her blood and her links with it were legendary".

Her grandfather George Milburn, a 19th century full-back, was known as the "War-horse" because of his fierce play. Her cousin Jackie Milburn was the legendary Newcastle United and England striker of the 1940s and 1950s.

Mrs Charlton had a "deep

understanding of the game and a sharp eye for a good player", Mr Gledhill said. She put that knowledge to use when, in her 70s, she began coaching seven and eight-year-olds at the local Coulson Park First School. The football-shaped wreath was from the staff, pupils and governors of the school.

She had a strong character that was vital during several setbacks such as the discovery that she had breast cancer in 1957, and then, as she recovered from surgery the following year, the shock of the Munich air disaster in which Bobby was among Manchester United's injured survivors.

Mr Gledhill said one major factor that had helped her to get over the trauma of losing a breast through surgery was the laconic humour of son Jack who started calling her Lefie. Her husband Bob, who died in 1982, was a former boxer. She wore the ring he bought her with his £1 winnings from a fight-booth bout in 1934 until she died.

Before the cortege left for Cowpen Crematorium, Sir Bobby, who now owns a travel agency, and Jack, recently retired as the Irish Republic team manager, chatted to and hugged relatives and friends outside the church.

British cattle cull

Continued from page 1
considered. Philippe Vasseur, the French Farm Minister, said: "We will only lift the embargo when we have total agreement that we have no risk."

Mr Hogg told the farm ministers that Britain was prepared to destroy all cattle more than 30 months old. "This is a significant measure which I hope will restore public confidence in the beef market," he said.

This would mean keeping out of the food chain the 15,000 elderly cattle, mainly dairy cows, which are slaughtered every week and turned into meat pies, sausages and other processed meat products. Their carcasses would be destroyed.

There was doubt whether Britain, which has only ten incineration plants, has the capacity to burn so many cattle. Ben Gill, deputy chairman of the National Farmers' Union, said much of the meat would have to be refrigerated for several months until new incineration plants were built.

Although Britain would be likely to pick up most of the cost of the new plants, a Commission spokesman said "co-financing" was not excluded.

Although few farm ministers reacted directly to Mr Hogg's proposal, it was clear that most of them did not think the move went far enough. The Dutch delegation said the new move was "not sufficient", and European Commission officials said the ministers all demanded "further radical measures" to restore public confidence.

The British proposal was broadly in line with the rescue plan first recommended last week by the NFU. Mr Gill said the Hogg proposals would be acceptable to British farmers.

Downing Street said last night that Britain would not be rushed into a decision on slaughtering cattle without European action to lift the British beef ban.

Euro vote

Continued from page 1
that he planned to resign the Conservative whip. "No way am I a defector. I am a pro-European, Macmillanite, One Nation Conservative... I regret the gap that seems to be opening up between the Government and the parliamentary party."

Growing numbers of Tory MPs were predicting yesterday that the Prime Minister would either postpone a decision until after Easter or concede defeat in his efforts to unite ministers behind a referendum pledge. Euro-sceptic ministers hit back by warning of renewed turmoil unless Mr Major faced down Mr Clarke and his Deputy Prime Minister. One said 90 per cent of the parliamentary party wanted a referendum.

In the Commons, Mr Major appeared to be softening his enthusiasm for a referendum, expressed only three weeks ago. Reporting to MPs on the Turin inter-governmental conference, he said there "may possibly be a case" for one.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Families want police killer to stay in jail

The families of the three policemen shot dead in west London by Harry Roberts 30 years ago have petitioned Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to block any release when he completes his recommended minimum sentence later this year (Lin Jenkins writes). Mr Howard has the power to overturn the decision of the Parole Board should it recommend that Roberts, 59, be freed.

The Inner London Probation Service wrote to the Metropolitan Police Federation and relatives of the three victims, Sergeant Christopher Head, 30, DC David Wombwell, 25, and PC Geoffrey Fox, 41, requesting their views on the possible release of Roberts, who has said he would like to live in London.

Paisley's boycott threat

The Rev Ian Paisley, the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, threatened to boycott the start of all-party talks on June 10 if the Government refused to toughen its stance on disarming the IRA. The MP for North Antrim, who held talks in Belfast yesterday with Michael Ancram, the Northern Ireland Minister, said that Sinn Féin and the IRA should be "nailed to the fence" on the weapons issue.

Male 'Pill' breakthrough

A two-year trial of a male contraceptive in 15 centres around the world has shown it to be almost 99 per cent effective, scientists at Manchester University claimed yesterday. The drawback is that it requires weekly injections into the buttocks but trials are under way on the use of longer-term injections combined with pills or skin patches. The injections are of the male sex hormone testosterone.

Girl, 2, falls to her death

A two-year-old girl died after falling nearly 100ft from a cliff into the River Jed at Jedburgh in the Scottish Borders. Louise Mitchell, who is believed to have climbed through a hole in a fence at her home, was treated at the scene but died later in hospital in Edinburgh. In a separate accident in the Borders Robert Guthrie, 5, was killed when he was hit by a tractor near his home in Kelso.

Minister for South West

The Government has appointed a minister to co-ordinate issues affecting the South West. David Curry, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Urban Regeneration, will concentrate particularly on the interests of Devon and Cornwall. The Prime Minister announced in a Commons written reply. "This is the largest English region, and it has distinct identities and needs," John Major said.

Keays libel bid fails

Sara Keays and her businessman brother, Tom Keays, failed in the Court of Appeal to resurrect an abortive libel action over an article in *Business Age* magazine which they claimed implied they were linked to an international arms trade scandal because of her affair with the former Trade and Industry Secretary, Lord Parkinson. Three judges rejected their challenge to a High Court judge's ruling.

Road signs of the times

Signs from the 141 councils that officially disappeared from the map yesterday have already become collectors' items, with souvenir hunters digging them up from roadsides at dead of night. But souvenir hunters have had slim pickings in Cleveland because the name was never popular locally and most signs continued to read "Teesside" even after Cleveland was created in 1974.

Sisters return home

Two sisters allegedly forced into arranged marriages in Pakistan by their father returned home to Glasgow yesterday. Nazia Haq, 13, who had to marry a 40-year-old cousin, said: "It was a dreadful experience." Her sister Rifaat, 20, said that although not happy initially she now wanted to bring her husband to Britain. A Glasgow councillor travelled to Pakistan to help the family return to Scotland.

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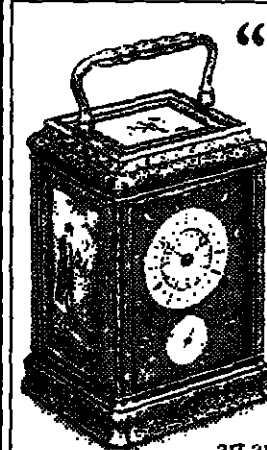
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There cannot be a separate law for those with intelligence, judge tells youths

High school trio locked up for vicious attack on church caretaker

By CAROL MIDGLEY

THREE sixth-formers at one of Wales's leading schools were sent to a young offenders institution yesterday for their violent assault on a church caretaker. Judge John Curran told the youths, all 19: "There cannot be a separate law for those with intelligence that is different from others."

Judge John Curran said the three, pupils at Cardiff High School, had "engaged in a rampage of violence" and brought shame on their affluent and highly respected fathers, a doctor, a retired bank manager and a business consultant.

Their parents in the public gallery burst into tears as the trio were led to the cells. Andrew Groom, David Vadden and David Willey, who all planned to go to university, attacked Eric Cobourne "for a laugh" after taking a break from their A level studies to get drunk celebrating VE Day. They drank beer and cider in a pub near their homes in the middle-class suburb of Cyncoed, Cardiff.

David Aubrey, for the prosecution, said that as they walked home they were "drunk, rowdy, destructive and violent" and "rampaged around the streets of this normally quiet suburb, behaving like three drunken hooligans".

They wrecked a garden wall and gate and vandalised a Mercedes car. "The three then came across Mr Cobourne, who was sitting on a bench outside his church and minding his own business," said Mr Aubrey. They hurled insults at him before Groom, a doctor's son, threw a bottle at Mr Cobourne's head, causing a wound that needed several stitches. He then turned to his



Eric Cobourne: died two weeks after attack



Ian Birtle and the head injuries he suffered

friends and said: "My aim is usually that good." Mr Cobourne was then kicked in the head by Vadden. Mr Aubrey said: "This man had his head down, holding his cut, when Vadden carried out what can only be described as a football volley to his head."

Vadden replied: "He was obviously not a Cyncoed person, he was different." Groom, a doctor's son who was said to be of extreme academic ability, told police he had attacked Mr Cobourne "for a sort of a laugh". Ian Birtle, 33, who lived nearby, witnessed the incident and tried to intervene to help Mr Cobourne but he was chased down the road and ended up on his knees being kicked and punched by the youths.

Mr Aubrey said: "Groom told him, 'Say you're sorry'. He managed to escape and get to his home where he collapsed across the doorstep covered in blood and slipping in and out of consciousness."

Two weeks after the assault Mr Cobourne, who suffered from heart disease and peritonitis, died but his death was attributed to natural causes and the defendants were not charged with manslaughter. They admitted violent disorder and causing actual bodily harm. They denied attempting to cause grievous bodily harm, but were convicted by the jury.

Keith Thomas, for Groom, who lives with his parents in a large detached house, said: "This case is a tragedy for all who have been touched by it. Andrew had a deep sense of shame and went to visit the families of the injured men to apologise. He is an academically clever young man with a great future. He is capable of a great contribution to the community."

"A sentence of custody will have more serious effect on him than most defendants who appear before the court. He will have great difficulties in continuing his education."

Vadden lives in a six-bedroom house with his parents. His father is a retired bank manager. Colin Davies, for Vadden, said: "He comes from



Andrew Groom, left, who launched a savage attack on a church caretaker with David Vadden and David Willey after a drinking session



a respected, respectable and affluent family. He has an exemplary character and you would not expect a person of his background to commit these offences. The effects on him have caused chaos in his life."

Daniel Williams, for Willey, said: "He is honest, sensitive, polite, caring and shy. He comes from a respectable family and the last 11 months have been hard to bear. He enrolled upon an Alcoholics Anonymous course at the church where the first assault took place. One family friend who knows him well tells us he finds his involvement in the offences is beyond comprehension."

Willey lives 200 yards from the church. His father Martin,

a former BT executive and now a business stress consultant, was not available for comment.

Groom and Vadden were also found guilty of wounding with intent for the attack on Mr Cobourne and were sentenced to two years in a young offenders' institution. Willey, who had been accepted to study town planning at Durham University, was given 18 months. Judge Curran said: "This has had a devastating effect not only on your victims but also on your families. Mr Cobourne was a slight man of only 5ft 6in and would not have been a match for even one of you."

There was anger in Cardiff, however, that the youths may have been given lighter sen-

tences because their parents were pillars of the community. Rhodri Morgan, Labour MP for Cardiff West, said: "A lot of people will feel that these boys got off very lightly because of where they live and who their parents are."

"They live on the right side of the tracks and whereas others from the wrong side may have been inside prison for a long time by now on remand, people feel that if they were from one of Cardiff's large council estates their feet would not have touched the ground."

As they were led to the cells the defendants' parents in the public gallery burst into tears. One mother said: "What are we going to do? This is awful!" Groom's mother said: "There

are two sides to every story. I just don't want to talk about it."

A police spokesman said afterwards: "These boys were well brought up but they disregarded all their upbringing that night to carry out these disgraceful attacks. What made it worse was that one of the victims was a sick man, totally unable to defend himself. The boys now find their lives ruined because they have seriously jeopardised their futures."

Mr Birtle, 33, said: "I was trying to help a man in trouble when they attacked me. Then they launched into me threatening me with bottles. I realised I was badly outnumbered and tried to get away but they caught me just beside the wall

of my parents' house. They lashed into me with their feet as I lay on the ground and stamped on me so hard that I had the imprint of their shoes on my face and arm. They wore T-shirts and jeans and acted like thugs. I was amazed when I found out that they came from good families."

Mrs Margaret Ashford, a close friend of Mr Cobourne, said: "Eric was a lovely, lovely man whose wife had died of cancer. He was so non-violent. He should have been the last person in the world to be subjected to an attack like this."

Cardiff High School was second in the league table for Wales for A Level results last year.

Police find boy dead in ditch

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE body of a 21-month-old boy who disappeared from a travellers' caravan site was found yesterday trapped beneath rubbish at the bottom of a ditch filled with filthy water.

Police divers searching for John Bristow made the discovery almost a day after he vanished from the site near Lydd, Kent, where he lived with his parents, Tracey Beane, 23, and Paul Bristow, 24, and his grandparents.

Residents at the caravan park hurled abuse at police as they took the body away for a post-mortem examination, angry that the search was halted temporarily overnight.

Detective Chief Inspector Andy Feltham said: "My sympathy is with the family. What I would want to say to them is that we have conducted an extremely thorough search. Officers were engaged until three in the morning. The wind was howling, it was freezing cold and it was absolutely pitch black."

Backroom mummy cut open after 3,000 years

By KATE ALDERSON

AN ANCIENT Egyptian mummy that had been languishing in an elderly couple's backroom has been dissected to reveal a treasure trove of lucky charms and a stone figure within its stomach.

The discovery of the statuette, known as an ushabti, in the abdomen is most unusual, as is the cache of 21 wooden amulets. Only four such detailed amulets of a mummy have been conducted in Britain in the past 90 years.

The mummy, a young male of high social standing who lived in about 1,000 BC, was donated to Manchester University for scientific research by an elderly Glaswegian couple. The couple, who have not been named, are collectors of curios and had kept the mummy, which has no head, in a storeroom cupboard for years.

Dr Edmund Tapp, a Home Office pathologist for Lancashire and Cumbria, was called in to dissect the mummy by Dr Rosalie David, keeper of Egyptology at the Manchester Museum.

The autopsy was conducted at the Royal Preston Hospital in front of an audience of scientists, students, doctors and laboratory staff.

Dr Tapp, using the techniques of modern pathology, made a small incision in the abdomen before removing layer upon layer of calcified tissue. Using X-rays as a guide he searched deeper into the abdomen for the small figures that had been shown up.

He discovered a 6in-high ushabti. It would normally be found inside the tomb but is thought never to have been found within a body. The ushabti acted as a servant in the afterlife.

There were also 21 amulets or lucky charms representing the four sons of the sun god Horus in the shape of a monkey, a human head, a jackal and a hawk.

Dr Tapp, who has researched the diseases of the Ancient Egyptians, said: "It was like conducting an archaeological dig inside a body. The artefacts we have found are rare and unusual in themselves but to conduct an autopsy of this kind is also a rare treat. We can't say whether the ushabti was placed accidentally or intentionally in the stomach. It's simply very unusual."

He hopes further testing will establish the cause of death.

Very few mummies remain in the hands of private collectors who would allow them to be examined in such detail. Many were brought back to Britain in the 19th century but Egypt banned their export at the beginning of this century. In Victorian times mummies would be unwrapped for favoured guests at soirées.

John Taylor, assistant keeper of Egyptian antiquities at the British Museum, said: "It is extremely unusual to find the ushabti figure in the abdomen and strange that it is made from stone. The only comparable find is that of a figure, believed to be an ushabti, found in the outer bandages of a mummy at the British Museum in the 1960s. However, this is quite different because it was found inside the stomach."

Quiz-show comics have the answer

By ANDREW PIERCE

STAND-UP comedians are reaping rich rewards by moving into the world of the television celebrity quiz show. Funnymen as diverse as Bob Monkhouse and Frank Skinner, presenter of *Fantasy Football*, can command up to £15,000 for 30 minutes.

The renaissance of the stand-up comedian, which produced performers such as Paul Merton, Jo Brand, Vic Reeves, Helen Lederer and Lee Hurst, has also spawned a plethora of celebrity shows — at a price.

Traditional favourites such as *Mastermind* and *Ask the Family* have been eclipsed by programmes such as *Have I Got News For You*, *They Think It's All Over*, *Shooting Stars*, *Fantasy Football* and *That's Showbusiness*.

Paul Merton, Michael Barrymore, Frank Skinner and Angus Deayton can command from £10,000 to



Vic Reeves, left, Jo Brand and Frank Skinner are products of the renaissance in stand-up comedy

£15,000. Jo Brand, Vic Reeves, Shane Ritchie, Jonathan Ross and Nick Hancock, presenter of the irreverent sports quiz *They Think It's All Over*, are in the £5,000 to £10,000 bracket.

Leading writers have criticised the trend, which they say is denying producers whose budgets have been cut the resources for better drama. Denise O'Donoghue, managing director of Hat Trick Productions, producer

of *Drop the Dead Donkey* and *Father Ted*, said: "These people can command these figures because someone somewhere thinks they must be worth it. I do not know many producers who get £1,000 an episode. Broadly speaking today's shows are often built round the celebrity. We always insist that the script comes first. The star comes afterwards."

Harry Thompson, who was series producer of *Have I*

Got News For You and produces *They Think It's All Over*, attacked the trend towards the celebrity quiz. "Stand-up comics dominate the quiz shows. They are seen as the ones who can deliver the ratings. They are often wooed on to programmes by shows of generosity which television companies cannot afford when other producers are cutting their budgets."

"The next thing, they get their own script for a sitcom or series of sketches. Writers are called in afterwards. It's the wrong way round. You wouldn't hire someone to fix your plumbing, or to decorate your house, just because they were so famous. So why hire someone famous to go on a show or to write a script unless you know that they can deliver?"

Mr Thompson added: "There is an absolute sense of terror that celebrities, who have proved they can grab an audience, will go elsewhere."

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Widely publicised claims of clinical result within 24 hours are disregarded by other scientists

Relatives of CJD victims seek action on 'live test'

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE families of four victims of the human form of "mad cow" disease urged the Government yesterday to examine a possible test for BSE and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in live cattle and humans.

The test is said to have been devised by Dr Harash Narang, 55, who worked as a clinical virologist at the public health service laboratory in Newcastle upon Tyne until 1994. His claims have been widely publicised by the media but the scientific community has disregarded them because he has failed to publish them in a scientific journal. The Ministry of Agriculture said that it had contacted Dr Narang for details of the test. "We certainly aren't going to turn down any test that might identify BSE," a spokesman said.

Don Curry, the chairman of the Meat and Livestock Commission, has said that he is willing to meet Dr Narang to discuss the test. "The difficulty

is that Dr Narang has never published the test, and nobody else has been able to repeat it," a spokesman for the commission said yesterday.

Dr Narang comes originally from Delhi and completed his education at university in England. In 1984 he spent a year on leave from his job working with a top American team at the US National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, on BSE and CJD-type diseases. When he applied to continue his studies with the team his superiors in Newcastle refused to extend his leave and he was recalled.

He lost his £40,000-a-year post as a microbiologist with the public health laboratory service in November 1994. He took his dismissal to an industrial tribunal, claiming he had been sacked because the results of his research would have a "wide-ranging impact" but the tribunal ruled in favour of his former employers who insisted Dr Narang's



Narang: details of his test are unpublished

post had been made redundant because of a 2 per cent cut in funding from the Department of Health.

In recent years he has become involved with the families of CJD victims. Yesterday he told the first meeting of the CJD Campaign Group, which he has set up with the families of Peter Hall, Morris Callaghan, Stephen Churchill and Fannie Van Es. "Since the admission of a link between CJD and BSE the number of so-called experts has mushroomed, but I have a proven test that the Government will not acknowledge."

His test for BSE uses electron microscopy, which he says can detect cattle meat infected with BSE in 24 hours, as opposed to traditional methods which take up to six weeks. "If any slaughtered cattle test positive for BSE these carcasses can be destroyed and never enter the human food chain," he said.

"This test avoids the need for any mass slaughter of cattle and will restore confidence in British beef."

He believes that ministry officials have deliberately obstructed his work because they fear a test would reveal how many cattle reaching slaughterhouses were infected with BSE. During his career at the public health laboratory service he was twice disciplined for breaches of conduct while



Ilya Andrews, left, Clare Callaghan and Gerard Callaghan at the CJD Campaign Group meeting yesterday

carrying out his research. In 1991 he was given a written warning for carrying out research into genetic manipulation without legal consent. A year later he was formally suspended after calling on the relatives of people who had been affected by CJD.

His work is sponsored by Ken Bell, 69, whose family has

been in butchery for three generations on Tyneside. He said: "The research being undertaken by Harash is crucially important. He is just one man on his own fighting the large institutions, but he is not giving up." Dr Narang believes he is only 18 months away from proving a definite link between the two diseases.

Vegetarians are reporting a surge of interest in their way of life. The Vegetarian Society said yesterday it had received 1,084 calls last week, about double the normal number. Haldane Foods, a leading manufacturer of vegetarian products, reported booming sales of its soya-based meat substitutes. By contrast,

Sainsbury yesterday reported a continuing run on beef in response to its decision to halve prices last Friday. "We sold out on Saturday, the first time this has happened in our 125-year history," a spokesman said. "Most branches sold out again on Sunday."

Libby Purves, page 18

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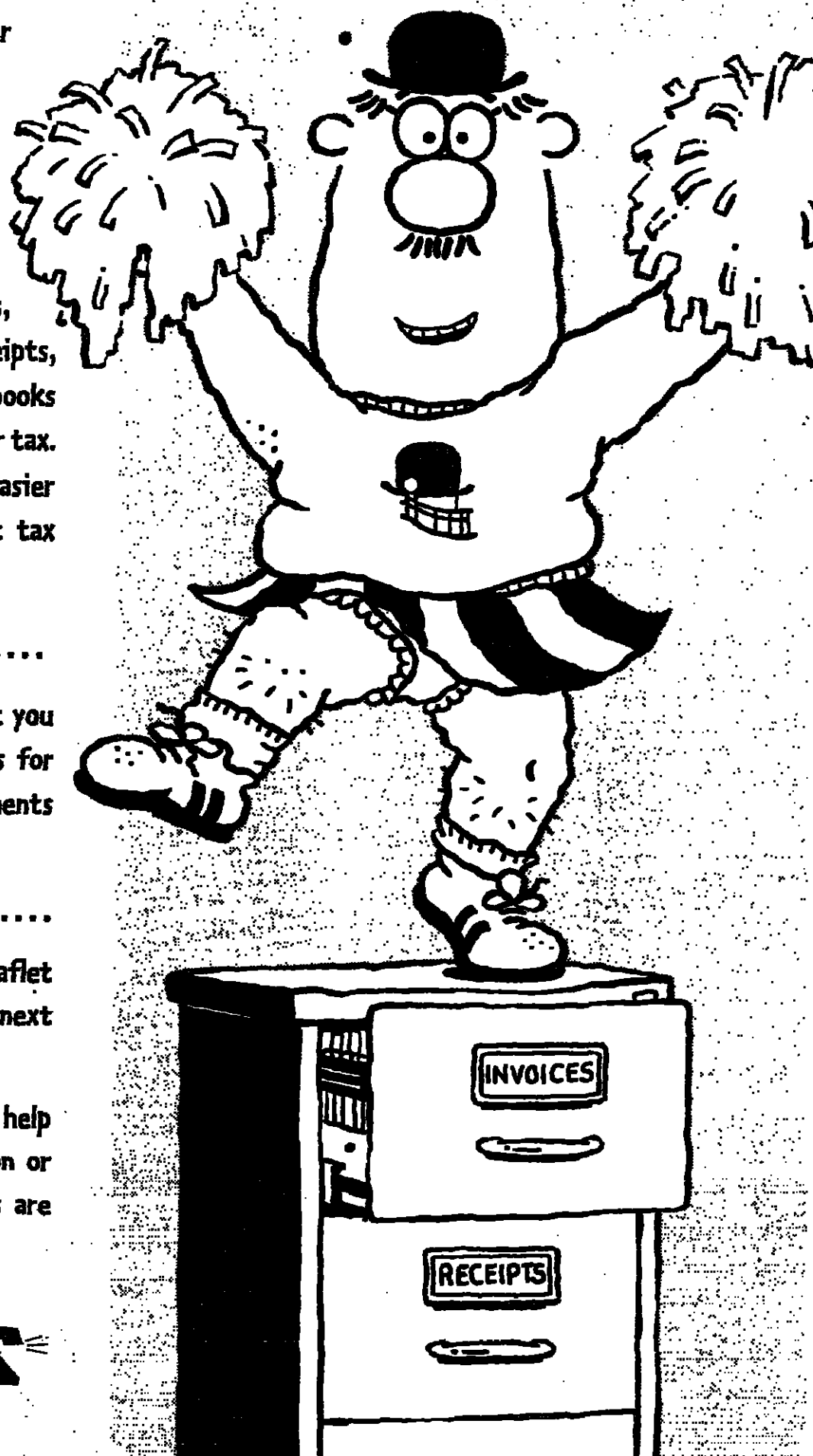
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Self Assessment - a clearer tax system

Heads accused of cover-up over classroom thugs

By JOHN O'LEARY AND DAVID CHARTER

TEACHERS are being put in danger because police and school authorities refuse to act against increasing classroom violence, union leaders said yesterday. They presented a dossier of 50 assaults and demanded measures to protect their members.

Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, told the opening of its conference in Torquay that schools would become fortresses unless the problem was taken seriously. Mr Smith said that heads, governors and education authorities covered up assaults on staff to protect a school's reputation. Police were reluctant to press charges because, in their terms, incidents appeared trivial.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, has launched an £18 million package of measures to improve school discipline. She is considering whether to reverse the limits on exclusions introduced two years ago.

But Mr Smith said that stronger measures were needed. He called for automatic action when a teacher is assaulted and more government money to develop withdrawal units — popularly known as sin bins — to cater for disruptive pupils.

"God help us if we go down the road of American inner-city schools," he said. "There is a real problem, but if something serious is done now rather than simply paying lip-service, we need never take that route. Otherwise, those of us who say that schools can

never be fortresses will have to change our tune."

Labour will seek to gain the conference's approval today when David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, will promise term-long exclusions and more expertise and equipment for the withdrawal units. He will also propose that more classroom teachers should spend time in the units to ensure pupils learn the national curriculum and maintain a link with the rest of the school.

In a poll of branches covering two thirds of education authorities in England and Wales, the union found nearly 300 cases of serious assault over the past year. More than nine out of ten teachers said they were facing more indiscipline in class and one in three said the position was much worse than 15 years ago. Most blamed pupils' parents.

The union has issued a model policy for schools, which says that assaults should normally be reported to the police and the teacher relieved of duties. Teachers should be offered counselling and be consulted on further action against their attacker.

Mr Smith said: "The police force is under considerable pressure and things which may be shocking, horrifying and career-destroying seem pretty small beer as far as the police are concerned. For reasons I well understand, heads, the police and governors are not taking as seriously as they clearly should an issue which is a very important community problem."

Boy of 9 'ended teacher's career'

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

A TEACHER spoke yesterday of the struggle with a violent nine-year-old that ended her career.

Galina O'Connor, 58, has not been able to work since the incident three years ago at Woodcroft School, in Barnet, north London. She said the boy concerned had been allowed to set his own conditions to return to her class after a previous assault.

At a press conference at the annual conference of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, Mrs O'Connor said she had been awarded £2,500 compensation but no action had been taken against the boy. He had attacked three children and prevented anyone from leaving the classroom for 15 minutes before Mrs O'Connor had lifted him out of the way and injured her back.

Mrs O'Connor, who taught for 11 years, said: "I felt something snap in my back. I can practically not walk more than 100 yards or sleep well because the pain returns."

Barnet education authority did not accept that Mrs O'Connor had been assaulted or that the boy was to blame for her retirement on health grounds.

In the final assault in 1993 the boy cut a girl's shin, crushed another between two tables and held a third girl by

the leg and began to twist it. Mrs O'Connor said he had been removed from school subsequently by an uncle.

Mrs O'Connor was one of two ATL members at the conference in Torquay who described classroom assaults.

Sam Bechler, from a Wolverhampton comprehensive, was attacked by an 18-year-old relative of a boy he had disciplined. The youth aimed a punch and a flying kick at Mr Bechler, 59, wrote obscenities on the blackboard and shouted abuse. He was convicted of assault.

A third teacher, who had been awarded £38,000 after having to give up teaching, submitted anonymous testimony because he fears reprisals by his attacker, who was jailed after the assault.

The ATL's dossier included attacks and threats from parents, pupils and intruders.



Benbecul blame C for wave

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"There have been so many cases"

Benbecula crofters blame Chernobyl for wave of cancers

By Gillian Bowditch
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE on the remote Western Isle of Benbecula spoke yesterday of their fears that their seemingly unspoiled island was harbouring a deadly environmental agent caused by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster a decade ago.

Nineteen cases of cancer have been diagnosed by one general practice on the island, home to 1,800, in the past 18 months. Of these 16 have died. Dr Francis Tierney, the island's doctor who has voiced concern about the disturbing trend, says he would have expected only three to five cases a year. He said many of the cancers were of the lungs and digestive tract although there was also an alarming increase in breast cancer. "We are seeing cancers for which we do not know the cause and lung cancer in non-smokers."

Yesterday on Benbecula there was much talk of a Chernobyl connection. Robert MacGillivray and his wife Katie, who run the Harris Tweed store at Balivanish, said there had been a great deal of concern at church on Sunday. "No one was panick-



ing but people are worried," Mrs MacGillivray said. "I am concerned for my grandchildren."

Other people told of two-headed lambs being born in the aftermath of Chernobyl and of how one of the lochs at Gramstad, once full of trout, was now mysteriously empty. Dr Tierney said: "People in Benbecula are very concerned. Patients have noticed that many of their neighbours and relatives are getting cancer and they want to know why. You can't have one funeral a month without people noticing. The community is so small everyone knows what everyone else has got. People come up to me at gravesides and say 'What is happening doctor?' There are coming up with their own theories."

The majority of cancers are of the lung and bowel. The most severely affected are middle-aged men who have a crofting background and who have been on the island for more than ten years.

The link with Chernobyl is just one possible cause which Dr Tierney would like investigated. Another theory concerns radioactivity from Sellafield. A medical paper published by a North Uist GP, Dr John McLeod, showed higher levels of radioactivity in men on the island than elsewhere and a link with Sellafield was established.

There were also fears that the local tip has contaminated the water supply and worries about the Ministry of Defence missile testing range which provides a valuable source of income for Benbecula.

Dr Tierney says: "My hunch would be that it is connected with radioactivity of some sort. Whether that is Chernobyl or Sellafield I wouldn't like to speculate. People are very concerned about their environment." Yesterday Benbecula was bathed in bright sunshine. The inhabitants take a pride in their windswept treeless is-

land. There is no litter or graffiti and the doors of cars and houses are left unlocked.

For years Benbecula was merely a stepping stone between North and South Uist but the MoD base with its 500 employees has helped to bring prosperity to the island. There is one supermarket but many islanders are self-sufficient. Sheep outnumber people, many of whom are crofters who have farmed the land for generations, growing vegetables and keeping chickens.

One such is Morag McIntosh, 60, who has lived on Benbecula for 38 years. She was diagnosed as suffering from cancer of the bowel last month. "It happened very quickly and has come as a big shock," she said. "I feel very weak but I am confident things will work out."

Mrs McIntosh lives in the hamlet of Creagorry. Four of her neighbours also have cancer. She said: "People are very worried. Over the past year there have been so many cases. People are asking why and should something not be done? I was very healthy. I don't smoke and I seldom drink. If it can happen to me it can happen to anyone."



Dr Roy Walling, of the Royal Botanical Garden, Edinburgh, examines *Oxyporus populinus* during the Mycological Society fungi-hunt

Fungi hunters join a mushrooming pursuit

By Nick Nuttall
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

FUNGI experts went hunting red caps and toadstools in an English forest yesterday in the finest tradition of their Victorian forebears. As part of centenary celebrations for their society, amateur and professional mycologists converged on Symond's Yat, Hereford and Wor-

cester, to search for fungal delights on dead wood, trees and pushing up through the soil.

The spring foray was a re-creation of a Victorian tradition established by the local Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club under the renowned naturalist Dr H. G. Bull. The club's gourmet and scientific interest in fungi, normally celebrated over copious amounts of food and drink at the

Green Dragon Inn in Hereford, led to the foundation of the British Mycological Society in 1896.

Mary English, a contemporary author, wrote: "All British mycologists who could get there did so, intent on the enjoyment of the heady mixture of days in the countryside in pursuit of rare species of toadstools and evenings of friendly social intercourse over good food and

wine." Dr Jack Marriot, a vice-president of the society, said the forays were "not just an excuse for heavy drinking and eating". Botanists had realised the significance of fungi in crop diseases, he said.

Professor Tony Whalley, of Liverpool John Moores University, said: "We don't want to encourage too many people to eat them now. It might harm the environment."

Link with disaster 'unlikely'

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

RADIATION experts believe it unlikely that Chernobyl had anything to do with the cancers on Benbecula.

There is no evidence that after the Chernobyl disaster the levels of fall-out on Benbecula were high. An analysis by the National Radiological Protection Board concluded that the island fell into the second-lowest category for contamination, which depended on whether rain fell when the Chernobyl contamination passed overhead.

Any radiation effects would be more likely to be thyroid cancer or leukaemia, not stomach or lung cancer. The causes of stomach cancer are more likely to be dietary, while smoking is the main cause of lung cancer. Neither is a marker for radiation exposure.

Lamp may replace laser treatment

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

A LAMP that kills cancer cells with an intense beam of light has been invented by a British scientist. The device, the size of a household toaster, has been used on 150 skin cancer sufferers and has cured four fifths of them. Within a few weeks of a 45-minute session with the lamp their symptoms had cleared.

The lamp is one twentieth of the cost of a laser and is being hailed as a big advance. Doctors are so pleased that they are planning tests on brain, breast, gullet, prostate, bowel and gynaecological cancers.

The lamp, which is painless to use, emits an arc of concentrated light that is cooled and then channelled through a series of lenses. A flexible guide directs the light to the cancerous skin, which will have been treated with a photosensitive

drug. On internal organs the light source would be applied via an endoscope inserted into the digestive tract or, in the case of a brain tumour, via a hole in the skull. However, that is some years away.

The device, developed by Dr Colin Whitehurst, of the Cancer Research Campaign's Paterson Institute in Manchester, costs £4,500 compared with £100,000 for a laser. The wavelength of light it emits can be varied to suit different cancers, making it more versatile than a laser, which operates on one wavelength.

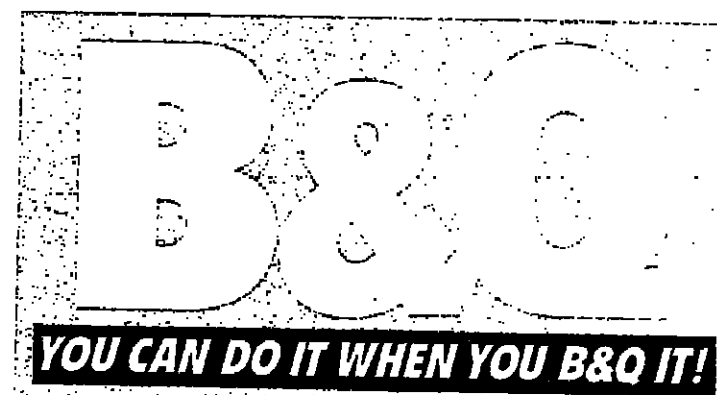
Professor Gordon McVie, the campaign's new director-general, who took up his post yesterday, said: "It is a truly remarkable invention, which we believe will make a vital contribution to the way cancers are treated."



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Send your entry to: The Times Screenwriting Competition 1996, PO Box 510, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 8QS. Closing date May 9, 1996. Full terms and conditions appeared last week.



TOKEN 5

Chainsaws let a little light into barrier between neighbours

By TIM JONES

A RETIRED teacher smiled happily yesterday at the buzz of chainsaws trimming his neighbour's giant *Cupressus leylandii* hedge. As the sunlight flooded into Michael Jones's garden, another episode in one of Britain's longest and costliest unneighbourly disputes drew to a close.

But Mr Jones knows his joy will be short-lived. For oft behind the ten trees that mark his garden's boundary, and beyond the reach of the law, his neighbour Charles Stanton has planted another row of trees which Mr Jones is powerless to do anything about. The fast-growing conifers are already 15ft high.

As the first row was being chopped down from 20ft to a manageable 12ft, Mr Stanton, 84, a retired engineer, placed a cardboard coffin outside his front door at Selly Oak, Birmingham. A plaque taped to the lid beside a posy of blue and white crocuses read: "RIP my beautiful trees whose



Coffin mourns "trees that softened my gaze"

green mantle has so nobly softened my gaze against the ugly reality beyond."

Mr Jones, 67, contemplating the second row, said: "They can reach 100ft and Mr Stanton has told me he will allow them to grow to an uncontrolled height. With Mr Stan-

ton the hell is never over."

The seeds of the trouble were sown in 1971 when Mr Jones and his wife moved into the leafy suburb planned by George Cadbury. Mr Stanton, who had lived there since 1947, planted the trees and when they reached 15ft Mr Jones began to complain that his southwest-facing garden was being deprived of sunlight.

In 1979, the first of scores of solicitors' letters passed between the neighbours. Mr Stanton reduced the hedge to 22ft, but in 1989 Mr Jones lopped 5ft off, followed by a further 4ft the next year. He won a court ruling that a hedge, like a fence, could be repaired and maintained by either neighbour. But Mr Stanton obtained an injunction to stop him.

Last November, at Birmingham County Court, Mr Stanton lost his claim for £30,000 in damages against Mr Jones for lopping the trees. The Recorder, Harry Wolton, QC, also lifted the injunction which prevented Mr Jones



Michael Jones oversees the trimming of his neighbour's first line of trees yesterday. "With Mr Stanton the hell is never over," he said

from trimming the barrier.

Mr Jones said he had spent £50,000 in fighting the case and hoped to recover £44,000 from Mr Stanton, whose own costs are at least as much.

Apart from the legal costs, the dispute has resulted in bitter words and recriminations. Mr Stanton believes that

Frieda, his first wife, died partly from the shock brought about when Mr Jones lopped a few feet off the trees.

Mr Jones said: "She died when complications set in after she had dropped a bottle of Ribena on her toes."

As he watched the tree surgeons at work yesterday,

Mr Jones said: "I don't regard this as a victory. This has been a pathetic thing over what should have been a trivial issue."

"He thinks I'm an ogre. I could have sold up but that would have left the problem for someone else. It should have been settled rationally

but it became a problem of personal animosity. Because of this ludicrous row my wife and I have had to forgo holidays and other luxuries. Although I did not take my neighbour to court this has cost my life-savings."

Mr Stanton twitched his curtains to check on callers

yesterday but remained firmly indoors. His second wife, who declined to give her first name, would speak only briefly through the letter box. Ignoring the coffin, she said: "It is just an ordinary day for us. The bleakness went long ago. Now I am going to hang the washing out."

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C of E told to back divorce services

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE traditional "batch, match and dispatch" roles of the Church of England could soon be joined by a fourth: "to unmatch". A leading clergyman has called for the Church to allow divorced people to mark the breakdown of their relationship with a special service.

Support for a ceremony to mark a divorce is growing. "Divorce ceremonies" have taken place in the Church of England and the United Reformed Church without official authorisation.

The "funeral for marriage" would involve the couple handing back wedding rings. In one case, the rings were sold and the money donated to Christian Aid.

At a weekend meeting of the Norwich diocesan synod,

Canon Michael Woods, team rector of Great Yarmouth, called on the Church's bishops to agree an order of service for the divorce ceremony. Although defeated, the motion was backed by a surprisingly large proportion of the synod - about one third.

Canon Woods told the synod: "It may sound Monty Pythonesque having a service for the breakdown of marriage. Divorce entails feelings of pain, bereavement and guilt and this calls for help and support. The Church recognises birth, marriage and death, but for the break-up of marriage there is nothing."

Canon Woods, recently criticised for blessing gay "marriages", was supported by the Rev Richard Woodham, of Norwich, who disclosed he had officiated at divorce ceremonies.

Cambridge receives £1m for Islamic studies post

By RUTH GLEDHILL

CAMBRIDGE University has been awarded almost £1.2 million for a lecturer's post in Islamic studies.

The donation, from one of the largest charitable organisations in the Middle East, reflects an era in which British culture has become more diverse, a trend the university has sought to reflect by adding the study of other religions to its syllabus.

The university said that for centuries its study of theology had been primarily concerned with Christianity. A spokesman said the endowment would "help the university reflect the religious make-up of today's society".

The lectureship will be advertised in the *The Times Higher Education Supplement* next week, and will come with a salary of between

£18,000 and £28,000 depending on the age and experience of the successful applicant.

Until now, the university has been forced to rely on lecturers from faculties such as oriental studies to teach Islam. These have been linguistic, historical or cultural experts on Islam, but for the first time the university will have a religious lecturer specialising in Islam.

The teaching of Islam will continue to figure as part of the normal Tripos in the faculties of divinity and oriental studies.

The endowment comes from the Zayed bin Sultan Nahayan Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation of Abu Dhabi, an organisation which also funded the Centre for Islamic Studies at the University of Wales in Lampeter.

Contacts with the foundation were provided by the

former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Runcie, who is chairman of the divinity faculty's development committee.

Other recent benefactions include a lectureship in Buddhist studies. Donations for posts in Judaism and Christianity in Africa and Asia are being sought. The divinity faculty is also seeking £3 million for a new building close to the library for lecturers and researchers.

Rosalind Paul, the faculty's administrative officer, said: "This is a wonderful coup for us, and everyone is very excited about it. The lectureship will be open to a male or female Muslim or non-Muslim."

The endowment coincides with a £33,000 donation from the film director Steven Spielberg to give the divinity school a visiting lecturer in modern Jewish thought.

Lottery to alter rule on good causes

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A CHANGE to the rules of how the National Lottery funds good causes, so that people and not just buildings can receive money, has been proposed.

Local communities will be able to apply for National Lottery funding for arts and sports schemes in their area under a change of rules being explored by the five distribution bodies. Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, said yesterday.

The changes mean that the lottery, which has so far raised £1.74 billion for "good causes", will be investing in people as well as buildings. Until now, spending was restricted to capital costs: under the new proposals, members of the public could ask for money to fund talent-spotting and coaching projects to help young people.

A consultation period on the proposed change is launched today. On May 15, the Arts Council will publish a document setting out proposals. It was too early to know how much money would be paid out under new schemes but reports suggesting £20 million a year were probably of the right order, Mrs Bottomley said.

Rodney Walker, chairman of the Sports Council, said it was aware of the financial sacrifices made by many athletes who took part, for instance, in the Olympics. Because some athletes went on to achieve great earning power, it was possible that loans could be introduced rather than grants, he said.

The Sports Council added that it would be able to pay an extra £200,000 to British athletes going to this year's Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Lord Rothschild, chairman of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, welcomed another planned rule change announced yesterday, which would allow building preservation trusts to apply for lottery funds to improve historic buildings.



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Crown sues Blake for profit from MI6 book

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE double-agent George Blake was sued by Britain yesterday in an attempt to recover £90,000 he made from a book on his years with MI6. Blake, who lives in Moscow, having escaped from Wormwood Scrubs in 1961, declined to appear at the High Court or to offer any defence. He is being represented by Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, the Attorney-General, is suing Blake and his London publisher, Jonathan Cape.

Blake had broken his trust with the security and intelligence services by writing *No Other Choice*. Philip Havers, QC, representing Sir Nicholas, said: "It was a 'flagrant disregard' of his duties from which he had 'unjustly' made money. Mr Havers said that although the book contained no breach of confidence — Blake had already told the Russians all he knew — he retained a fiduciary duty."

Sir Richard Scott, the Vice-Chancellor, asked: "These secrets may have been revealed to the Russians, but not to the public at large. I don't suppose the book sold well in Russia unless it was translated."

Mr Havers said that Blake had been employed by the Crown and owed it a duty which he had breached, and

therefore the remedy would be for the Crown to take any profits he had made by that action.

Jonathan Cape, which is not defending the action, holds the profits of the book, which have been frozen since it was published in 1991.

Blake, 73, who has been blamed for the death of several British agents, received a £35,000 advance for the book. *No Other Choice* deals with his time with MI6 between 1947 and 1961, his arrest and conviction in 1961, his escape from prison, and life in Russia.

Sir Richard said he could not see that a member of the security services owed a duty when he had left the service other than not to reveal confidential information.

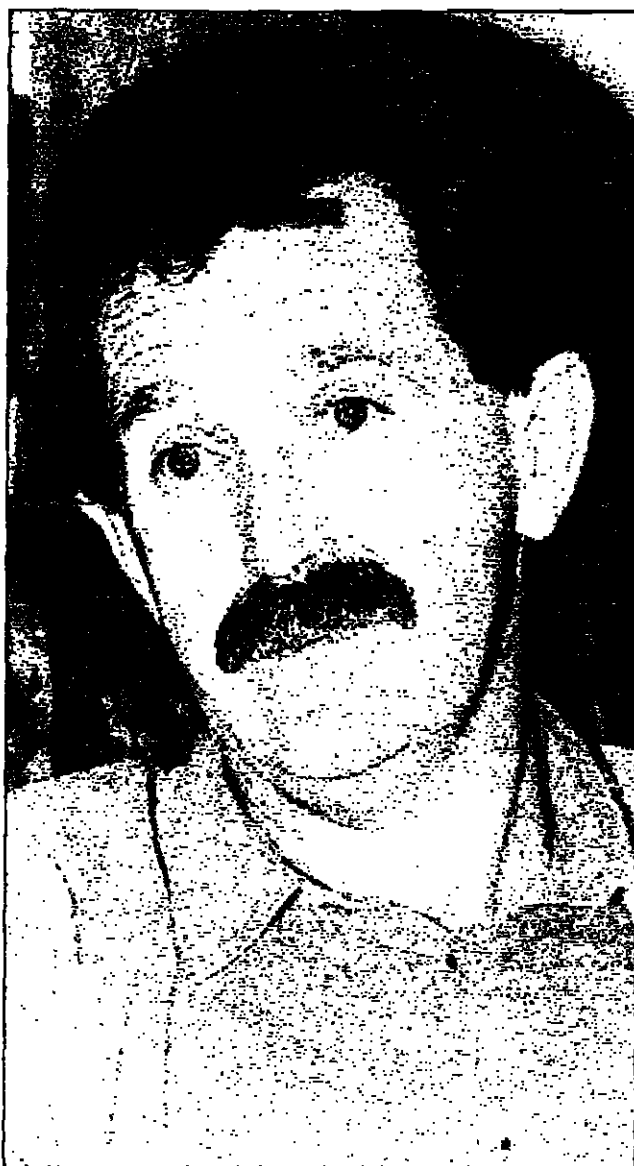
Mr Havers said that Blake was using his former position to make a profit without authority. "The book would have no interest to publishers unless he was a former intelligence officer." The right to freedom of expression as upheld by the European Court of Human Rights did not affect Blake's breach of duty. "If he has breached that duty, he is liable for the consequences."

Lord Lester, who was appointed by the Crown to look after Blake's interests, said that government ministers should be subject to the same code and stopped from publishing their memoirs if the former security officer was prevented from publishing a story about his life because he was employed by the Crown.

He told Sir Richard, who presided in the *Sprecher* case when the Crown tried to stop Peter Wright from publishing his *MI5 memoirs*, that the House of Lords appeal found that Mr Wright's duty was to maintain secrecy. Lord Lester said that, when the Government sues for breach of confidence, it has to prove that restraint of publication is in the public interest. The case continues today.



Blake: escaped from prison to Moscow



PC Alan Waldock, who was found not guilty of murder in Portugal and at his wedding to Doris in 1975

PC cleared of murdering wife is found dead in fume-filled car

By CAROL MIDDLEY

A POLICE officer cleared of murdering his wife in a whirlpool bath seven years ago has been found dead in his car. PC Alan Waldock, 42, was called a liar at Doris's inquest by the coroner, who said she was probably killed unlawfully.

PC Waldock was due to have appeared at Bedlington Magistrates' Court, Northumberland, tomorrow charged with credit card fraud. His body was found in the car on an isolated track in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, on Sunday morning. A hosepipe was attached to the exhaust.

PC Waldock, who served with Northumbria Police, was held in custody in Portugal for a year after being arrested for his wife's murder in the Algarve resort of

Albufeira in 1988. Mrs Waldock, 33, drowned in a whirlpool bath at their holiday apartment after suffering head injuries. PC Waldock claimed she had slipped and banged her head and he was later cleared of murder by two Portuguese judges. But two Home Office pathologists told an inquest in Britain they believed the bruising to the back of her head was consistent with having been struck by a blunt instrument.

Suspicions that PC Waldock had killed his wife remained, particularly when he admitted to having a mistress. He was shunned by his neighbours and many police colleagues.

Yesterday Mrs Waldock's father, Bob Barber, 71, from Warkworth, Northumberland, said he was always convinced PC Waldock had

murdered his daughter. The Barbers had tried to get custody of their grandson but had not seen Christopher, 13, for seven years.

"As far as we're concerned Waldock no longer existed anyway. It is tragic for my grandson, he is the one who has come out of this worst."

"Maybe it was an attack of conscience after all these years that he decided to kill himself but I don't think he had a conscience. Apparently there were letters left and it will be interesting to see what is in them."

"The way he went on at Doris's funeral still boils my blood. There were tears rolling down his face but they were crocodile tears."

Last July PC Waldock was suspended from his job in the Northumbria Police control room after an alleged credit

card fraud. At the time he was suing the force after breaking his arm in an icy police yard.

On March 6 this year he was charged with ten offences of avoiding liability by deception involving £13,000.

PC Waldock had admitted having a string of affairs and once talked to friends about committing the perfect murder.

Mrs Waldock's brother, Detective Sergeant Alan Barber, of Northumbria Police, said after PC Waldock was cleared he bought a car with the registration number H20, the chemical symbol for water. Detective Sergeant Barber said: "He claimed the number plate was just a complete coincidence but we all took the view he was just flaunting the fact."

An inquest was opened in Gloucester yesterday.

Recycling trial puts targets in reach

By NICK NUTTALL

A PILOT scheme that recycles domestic rubbish and adds less than £1 a house to a council's annual spending could be adopted across the country.

At the heart of the trial, involving 20,000 homes in West Sussex, are separate plastic boxes into which residents put cans, newspapers and plastic milk and drinks bottles. Those are left at the kerbside for collection. Glass bottles and containers are put in glass banks.

The scheme, centred on Worthing, was originally tested by Adur District Council. Initially Adur used a two-truck system, then Worthing's refuse lorries were redesigned so that only one was needed. They now have three compartments, one for paper, one for plastic and can, and a third for non-recyclable rubbish. A special waste depot sorts rubbish using a high-tech scanner to separate different plastics.

A national project would mean Britain that could meet its targets, under the European Union's packaging directive, of recycling 25 per cent of household waste by 2000 without high costs for industry, councils and consumers.

Peter Hindle, chairman of the integrated waste management group of the Institute of Grocery Distribution, said yesterday: "For less than the cost of a lottery ticket per household we can deliver the household waste recycling that everyone is demanding."

"In essence we can sort detergent and milk plastic bottles from water or fizzy drinks bottles at a rate of four bottles per second with an accuracy of over 97 per cent."

The institute, involving the big supermarket chains as well as bodies such as the Food and Drink Federation and the British Retail Consortium, said that it hoped the scheme would be adopted nationally. An organisation called Valpak has been set up to help the industry to meet recycling targets. Valpak is expected to give cash to councils wanting to copy the West Sussex project. More than 85 per cent of households involved in the trial, the most cost-effective in Europe, have stayed with it for five years.

NEW IN BRIEF

Posters for drink must be changed

A poster campaign for Black Death Vodka showing a transvestite and a naked man balancing a bowling hat without using his hands was censured by the Committee of Advertising Practice. Richmond Distillers, which was criticised for inciting consumers to drink to excess, must revise its posters.

Dewi Morris, the former England rugby player and the brand's national sales manager, said: "We've been plagued with problems over our posters. Most of them stem from the fact that the Advertising Standards Authority don't appear to have a sense of humour."

Ruling quashed

Two judges in the High Court quashed a youth court ruling that a mother should pay £100 compensation to the Metropolitan Police after her 14-year-old daughter damaged a police car while living in a council children's home in north London.

Paperboy bitten

An albatross was destroyed after it attacked and injured a 14-year-old paperboy in the Bulwell area of Nottingham. Thomas Sealoff was treated in hospital for bites to his legs and groin after the dog escaped from a house. Its owners face possible charges.

Policeman killed

A police motorcyclist died and a pedestrian was seriously injured in an accident in Cardiff on Sunday night. PC Anthony Ashmore, 38, was answering an emergency call when his motorcycle hit Austin Large, 21, who is in a critical condition.

Noteworthy find

Workers at a recycling depot sifted through a tonne of old paper and found £150 accidentally thrown away by Muriel Jones, 78, of Harlow, Essex. The bank notes, saved to pay her gas bill, were put out for collection with old newspapers and junk mail.

Briton returns

Robert Lock, 30, who was held for three years in a Thai jail, was expected to arrive at Heathrow early today after being cleared of drug smuggling. Sandra Gregory, who was arrested with Mr Lock, was jailed for 25 years.

Cattle warning

Giant pictures of cows are to be painted on roads in Gloucestershire in an attempt to make drivers slow down. It is hoped the signs will remind drivers that cattle roam on Minchinhampton common in the summer.

Pregnant pause

A trial came to a sudden halt yesterday at Cardiff Crown Court when a key prosecution witness went into labour. Leanne Stokes was taken to hospital by ambulance. The trial was adjourned for two months.

Osprey arrives

A male osprey returned from West Africa to its nesting site in an old Scots pine at Loch Garten near Aviemore in the Highlands. Its mate is expected back at any time. It is believed the same male has nested there for six years.

Red all over

A news release about literacy in English schools from the Department for Education and Employment announced the setting up of a literacy centre under the title "Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to lead blitz on basics".

DNA phenomenon proves bones are those of Tsar

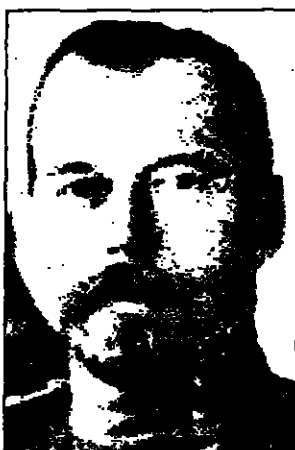
By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

NEW genetic tests have proved beyond doubt that bones dug up in eastern Russia five years ago are those of Tsar Nicholas II, who was murdered by the Bolsheviks in 1918.

The identification was already almost certain after DNA tests at the Home Office Forensic Laboratory at Aldermaston showed close matches between the DNA of the presumed Tsarina and that of the Duke of Edinburgh, who shared a great-grandmother.

There remained a tiny doubt over the Tsar's bones, however, after a failure to achieve a perfect match with the DNA of two surviving maternal relations, Countess Xenia Cheremeteff-Sifri and the Duke of Fife. At one position along the mitochondrial DNA, which is inherited through the maternal line, the Tsar showed an anomaly that did not match his two relations.

DNA consists of long molecules whose code is formed by the order of occurrence of four "bases" — adenine, cytosine, guanine and thymine. At position 16169 on the DNA sequence, the two relations both had a thymine, while the bones believed to come from the Tsar had a cytosine. Further analysis showed that the Tsar's DNA was in fact a mixture: 70 per cent of it had cytosine at this position and the other 30 per cent thymine, a phenomenon known to geneticists as heteroplasmy.



Tsar Nicholas: brother was exhumed for tests

Faced with this discrepancy, Dr Peter Gill at Aldermaston was able to put at no more than 98.5 per cent the probability that the remains were the Tsar's. The Russian Orthodox Church demanded stronger proof. As a result Tsar Nicholas's brother, Grand Duke Georgy, was exhumed from his grave in St Peter and St Paul Cathedral in St Petersburg in 1994.

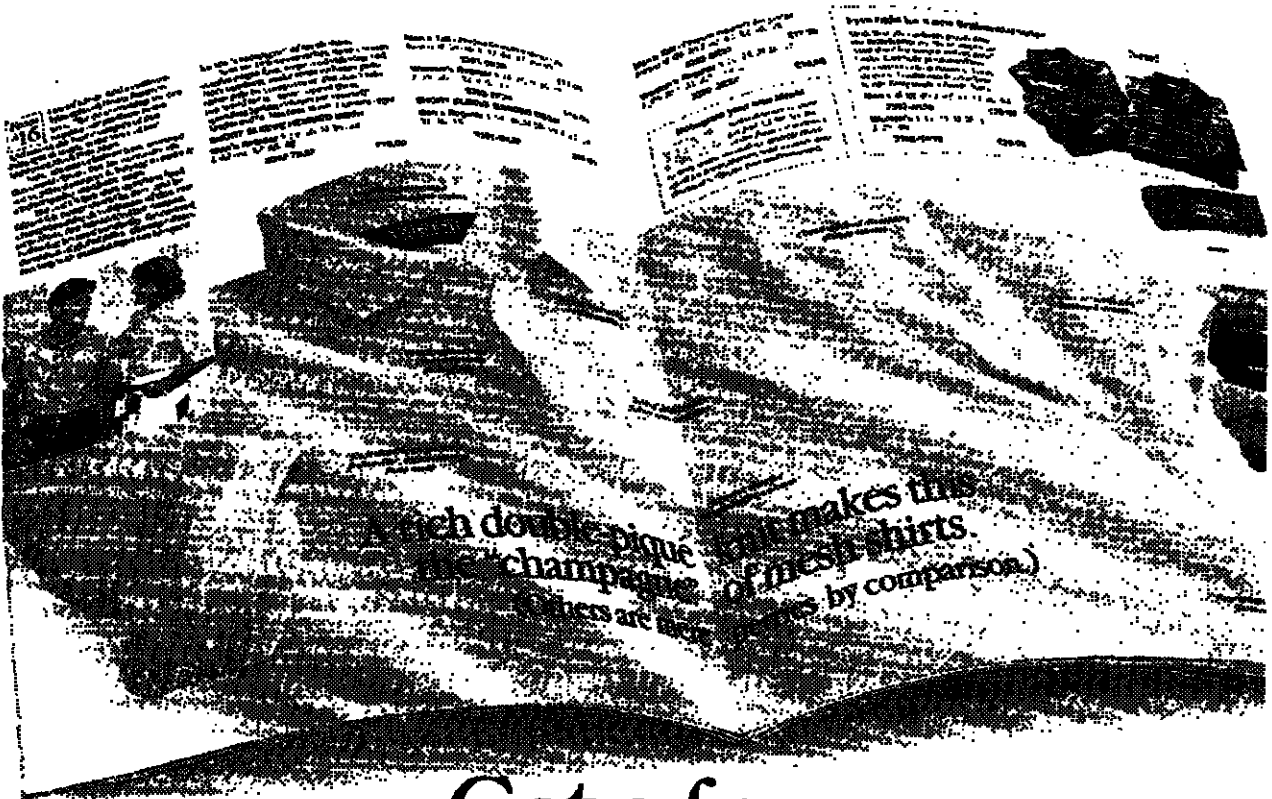
Georgy died of TB in 1899 at the age of 28. The Russian forensic scientist Dr Pavel Ivanov took samples of DNA from his leg bones and they were analysed at the US Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory in Rockville, Maryland. The Grand Duke's DNA shows heteroplasmy occurring at exactly the same position — extremely unlikely if the two were not related.

Reporting in *Nature Genet-*

ics, the scientists calculate that the sequence match, the fact that there is heteroplasmy at the same position, and the close match between DNA from the Tsarina and the Duke of Edinburgh, mean that the DNA data are 100 million times more likely if the remains are those of the Romanovs than if they are from an unrelated family.

"Given that the anthropological and circumstantial evidence was also considered conclusive for the identification of the Romanovs, there now appears to be no reasonable scientific objection to accepting the authenticity of the remains," the scientists conclude.

This is the first time that heteroplasmy phenomenon has been used in a case of human identification. The evidence is that these DNA mixtures occur spontaneously and were passed to the two Romanov boys by their mother, although in slightly different proportions: while Tsar Nicholas has 72 per cent cytosine and 28 per cent thymine, the proportions are almost reversed in the Grand Duke.



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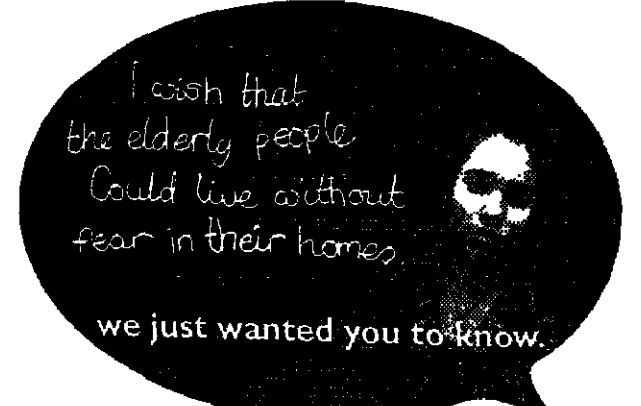
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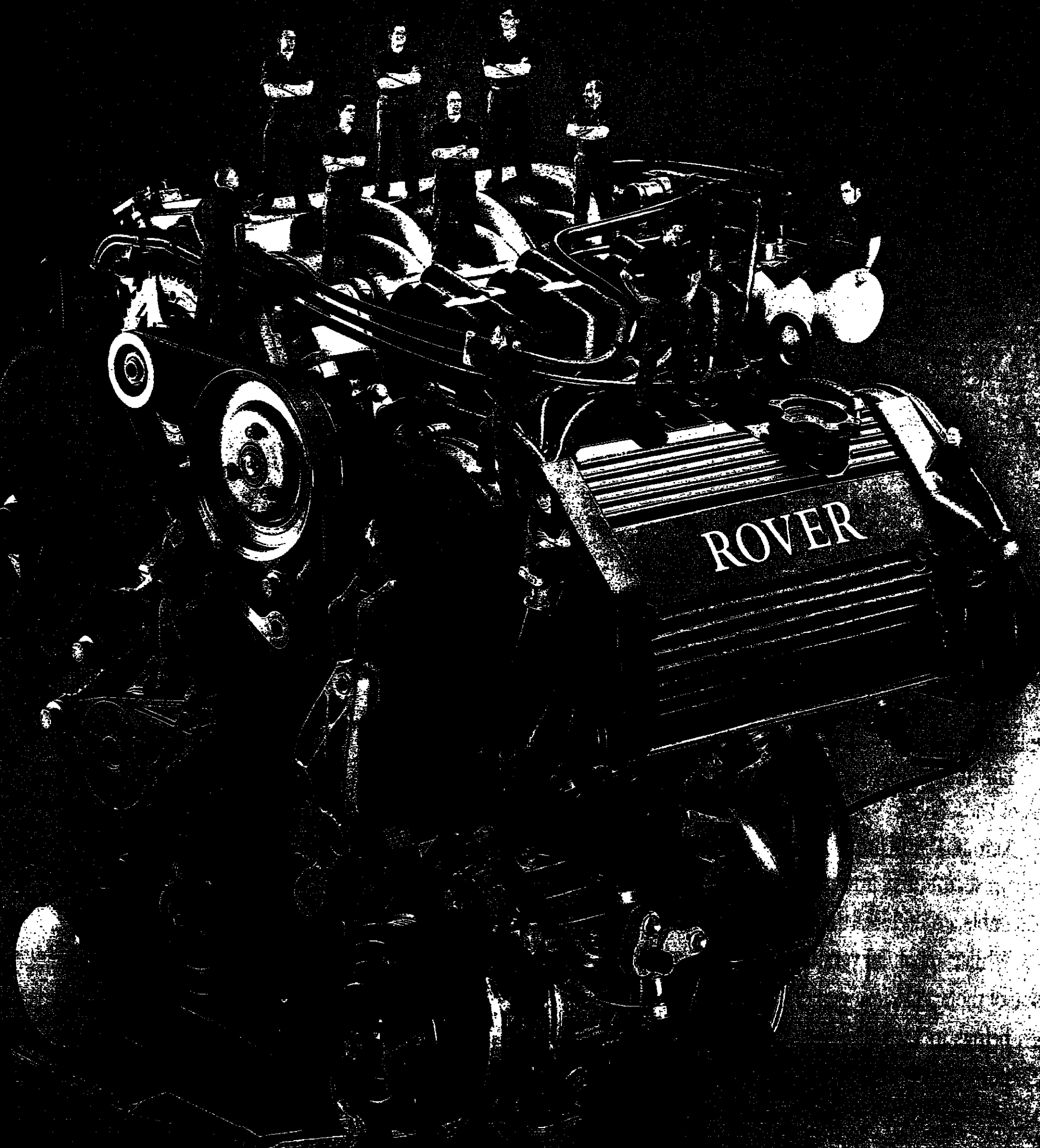


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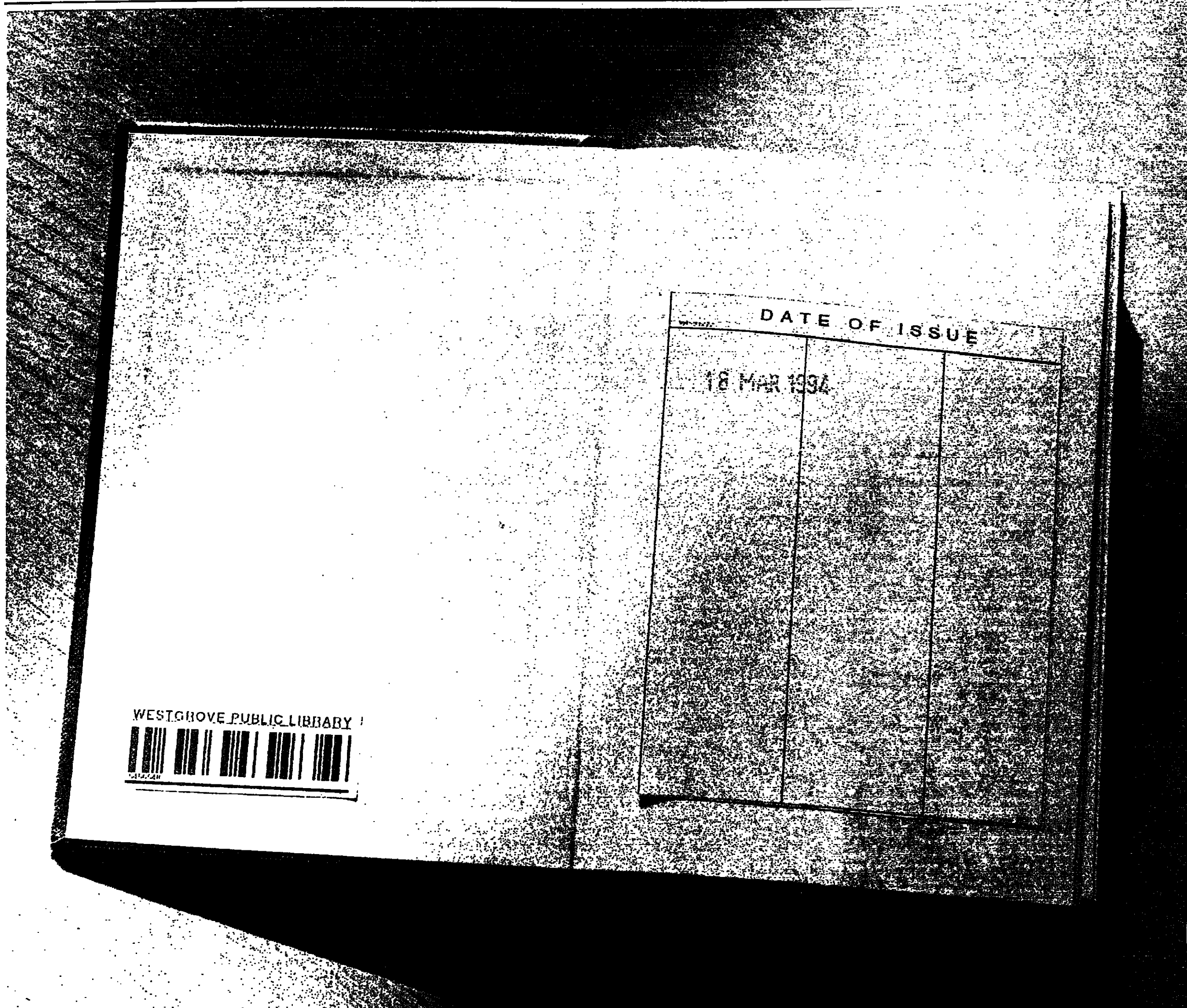
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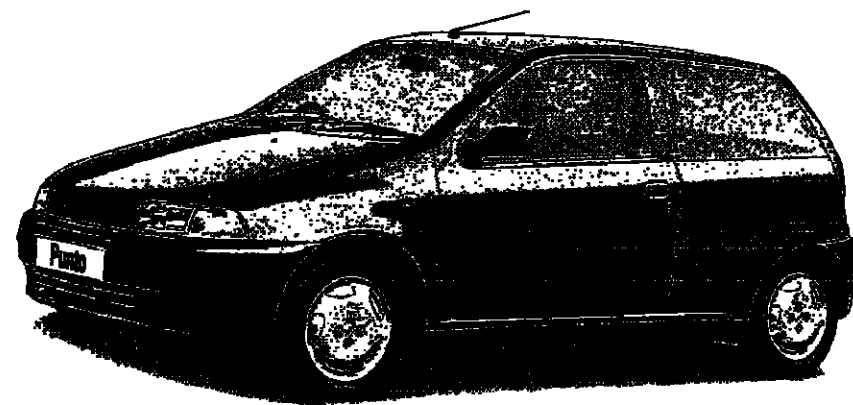
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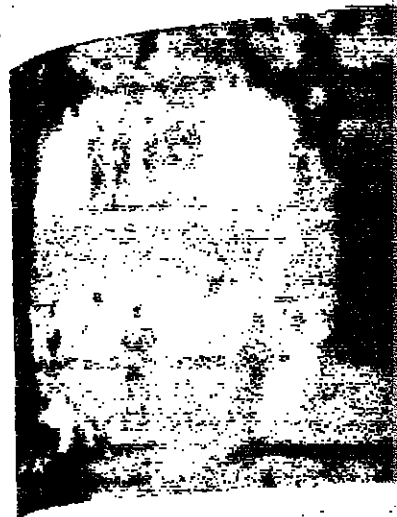
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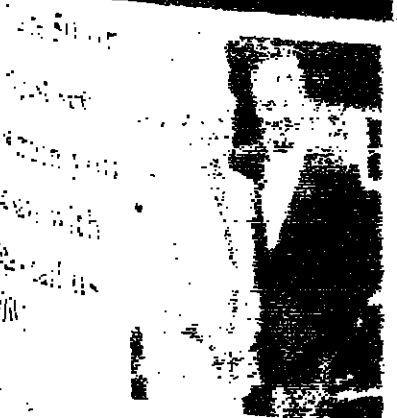
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Pressure grows to expel dissident after envoy's warning of risk to British exports

Fears over Saudi furore as BBC screens execution

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND MICHAEL EVANS

A NEW row between Britain and Saudi Arabia is threatening to jeopardise millions of pounds of British exports after BBC's *Panorama* last night showed explicit scenes of a man being publicly executed with a sword.

The programme, likely to inflame sensitivities in Riyadh, came as the Saudi Ambassador gave a warning that the continued presence in Britain of Muhammad al-Masari, a leading Saudi dissident, could lead to the cancellation of the huge arms contracts and would harm Britain's relations with Saudi Arabia. Britain has signed

defence contracts with Riyadh worth £20 billion.

His warning followed an admission to an Arab newspaper by Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, that the Government was searching for another country to take Dr Masari after Dominica, the island to which Britain had hoped to deport him, had now closed its doors to him.

Dr Ghazi al-Ghosaibi, the Saudi Ambassador, told *Panorama* that unless the Government expelled Dr Masari, millions of pounds worth of contracts would be lost.

"If you are so insistent that I am going to tell you that the

continued presence here will harm British relations and threaten British exports, I'm going to tell you that, yes," he said. He denied this amounted to blackmail by the Saudi Government.

"No, that's not blackmail. That's friends discussing a problem that is affecting both of them... It's not blackmail; blackmail is when you do something illegal... We are a sovereign country. We can buy wherever we want."

Dr al-Ghosaibi, whose remarks are only part of a lengthy interview he gave to *Panorama*, did not give any specific deadline for the expulsion of Dr Masari, and Saudi sources were anxious to play down any Saudi demand to Britain. Sources close to the royal family say privately that Saudi Arabia has made a mistake in drawing attention to Dr Masari and should now ignore him.

The film of the execution is likely to cause more offence, however. Saudi Arabia reacted furiously to the BBC television documentary *Death of a Princess* in 1980.

Executions in Saudi Arabia are prescribed for murder, rape, drug smuggling and child abuse, and are carried out in public outside a mosque after prayers on Fridays. The



Arelene Hernot, a Filipina, who claimed she was flogged for dining out with her husband and male friends

Saudi authorities make no attempt to prevent foreigners attending if they wish, but filming is forbidden.

The *Panorama* footage, filmed secretly, has been in existence for some time. The film shows the entire execution, but the producers decided on grounds of taste not to show the actual decapitation of the prisoner.

A spokesman yesterday said there had never been any question of including that scene, nor had *Panorama*

held it out because of pressure from the Saudis or from the Government.

Arelene Hernot, a Filipina, claimed on last night's programme that she was flogged for going out in the evening for dinner with male friends.

Under Saudi law females may not be seen in public in the company of a male who is not a relative.

The Government is now desperately searching for a country that will agree to take Dr Masari because Dominica

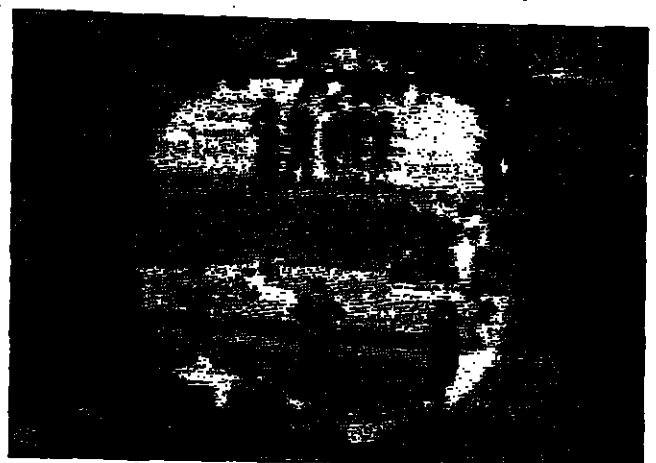
has changed its mind, following a court ruling last month. Britain had previously reached an agreement to deport him there but last month Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, was told by an immigration appeals court judge to reconsider the deportation order.

Judge David Pearl, the chief immigration adjudicator, said there was "some force" in the argument that Dominica lacked sufficient police resources to protect the Saudi

dissident. He also said Dominica might come under outside political pressure to expel Dr Masari to Saudi Arabia.

Yesterday, Ashworth Elwin, High Commissioner for Dominica in London, denied his Government had been under any pressure to withdraw the proposal to take Dr Masari. It had decided to do so purely because of the court ruling, Mr Elwin said.

Dominica was not prepared to install special safety measures for the dissident.



The BBC's film of a public execution in Saudi Arabia

Chechens ignore Yeltsin's truce and kill 28 Russians

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

RUSSIAN soldiers in an armoured column in Chechnya suffered heavy casualties yesterday, hours after President Yeltsin's new peace plan came into force.

Twenty-eight soldiers were killed and 69 wounded when Chechen rebels attacked a convoy near the southern mountain village of Vedeno in the early hours of the morning, Interfax news agency reported. It gave no estimate of Chechen casualties.

The plan, which provides for a ceasefire and a partial withdrawal of troops from Chechnya, came into effect at midnight on Sunday. There were no reports of shelling by the Russians yesterday, but television reports in Moscow said Russian troop positions had been fired on 12 times.

The Russian commander in Chechnya, General Vyacheslav

lav Tikhomirov, threw the plan's success into doubt by saying his troops might fight on, albeit at reduced intensity. The Russians have been using bombers and heavy artillery to pound a group of Chechen villagers into submission in recent weeks, paying no regard to civilian casualties.

General Lev Rokhlin, who commanded the capture of Grozny in February last year and now heads the Russian parliament's Defence Committee, complained that the truce could be a "repetition of the past" in which the Chechens used a ceasefire to regroup for fresh hostilities.

There was no reaction from the rebel leader, General Dzhokhar Dudayev, to Mr Yeltsin's most conciliatory proposal: the Russian President has offered to hold

indirect talks through intermediaries. Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet President, and Minsimer Shaimiyev, President of Tatarstan, both offered themselves as mediators.

The Russians refuse to talk directly to General Dudayev, calling him a criminal, while he says that he is only prepared to discuss full independence for Chechnya.

□ Trip cancelled: President Yeltsin yesterday postponed his scheduled trip to Ukraine on Thursday, the sixth time he has altered plans to visit his Slav neighbour in 18 months.

His press spokesman, Sergei Medvedev, said the delay was because Moscow and Kiev had yet to settle a long-running dispute on how to divide the ageing Black Sea Fleet, based in the Crimean port of Sevastopol since 1783.

German press rages at Britain over compensation demands

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE German press yesterday expressed outrage at British demands for total compensation for the loss of its beef herds and struck out at John Major, "national egoism".

The sharp tone seemed to reflect Bonn's impatience and was the fiercest broadside against the British Government for several months.

The attacks were launched as anxiety about "mad cow" disease affected the German food economy. Slaughterhouses and butchers' shops are reporting up to 65 per cent loss of trade. Breakfast staples, such as liver sausage, and regional specialties containing offal and brain have almost disappeared.

Even chocolate manufacturers — because of a suspicion that British animal fat may be used — and milk distributors are talking of a collapse in

demand. Supermarket beef prices are being slashed and the meat is clearly marked as German, but customers are giving it a wide berth.

Yet British beef accounts for about 0.1 per cent of German beef consumption, and of 108

The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* declared: "In Turin it was surprising to see the coldness and toughness with which the British are playing their insular game of 'one against all', interpreting European solidarity as a one-way

Ploumact. Brittany: French health officials yesterday began destroying a 124-strong herd of cattle in this village after one animal was found to have "mad cow" disease. It was the third herd destroyed in France this year because of the disease. All but three of the 16 cases discovered in France since 1991 have been in Brittany. (Reuters)

cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease reported since 1994 only two could conceivably be the new variant. The latest suspected victim of the new strain was identified yesterday as a woman in her early thirties who was mainly vegetarian and had never visited Britain.

street. This can be seen either as the beginning of disintegration of Europe or of an emerging 'core'. In any case the family is no longer together — Britain is moving off." Most commentators seem upset that Britain did not immediately dilute its opposition to

tighter European integration in return for financial assistance.

The *Süddeutsche Zeitung* lamented: "European members are using the Union as a kind of repair shop for mistakes made in national policy — everyone is holding out his hand for money." The paper also said: "It is important to put the spotlight on Britain's greed for profits."

Der Spiegel decided that the "mad cow" outbreak was a sign of a more general British decline.

The idea that British compensation should be partly financed by cutting the British budget rebate seems to have been hatched by Joachim Bitterlich, foreign policy adviser to Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor. British Euro-sceptics are furious at this form of financing.

Muslims defy Serb rule over frontline villages

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN KOVACEVICI

THE map-makers in Dayton, Ohio, neatly partitioned Bosnia-Herzegovina in two, but a sloppy pen stroke has left six all-Muslim villages on the wrong side of the line.

In the hills of northern Bosnia, about 15 miles east of Tuzla, the six hamlets theoretically came under Bosnian Serb control last month. The Muslim villagers, unlike the Serbs who fled Sarajevo when it came under the Bosnian Government's domain, are determined to stay. They have refused to let Serb authorities enter Kovacevici and the Serbs have not dared to try.

"I know we are on the wrong side of the line," said Mirsad Kahrmanovic, 25, whose surname is shared by most villagers. Mirsad, who spent the past three years defending Kovacevici, said: "Why should we leave? We are Muslims and we have always lived here."

Kovacevici, which sits on the old front line, does not look habitable. All the walls of its 250 homes are crumbling and there are gaping holes in them from the shell fire that they were subjected to from only yards away. Most have roofs missing. However, the villagers, like most in Bosnia, have a bond with their land and are rebuilding their homes.

Embarrassed Bosnian government officials say they cannot understand how these six villages ended up in the Serb nation and are trying to negotiate a land swap.

The villagers appear remarkably calm. After a flurry of meetings, the 600 people of Kovacevici decided that being in the Serb entity was not all that bad as long as they could remain in their village.

"The Serb police haven't dared come here yet and they probably won't," said Ferid Kahrmanovic, 40. "If I were a Serb, I'd be ashamed to come here after all that they've done. If they never managed to come here with all their tanks and equipment, how can they do it now with only small guns?"

He has a point. Given that there are no roads from Serb territory to Kovacevici, Serb police would have to pass through Bosnian territory to reach their village by car: a venture that few Serb police would be likely to undertake.

Less than a mile from Kovacevici is a Serb village. "We could have taken their village because the Serbs abandoned it," said Mirsad. "But we didn't want to. It's theirs." He added: "Before the war we knew them well, but we don't want anything to do with them now."

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HOW TO APPLY To apply for RHS membership and/or an RHS video for just £1.98, collect four tokens (tokens for both offers will appear daily this week) and attach the relevant tokens to the corresponding application form. A membership application form will appear again on Friday and a video application form will appear on Saturday, both with full details of the offers.

THE TIMES

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

GARDEN VIDEO TOKEN 2

THE TIMES

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP TOKEN 3

Bonn will take over information highway

BY OLIVER AUGUST

GERMANY will dominate Europe once again in the new information age, according to a survey out today.

By 2000 the German media will occupy half of the European Internet, putting it on a par with its American competitors.

"Germany will be the dominant market in Europe, accounting for about 50 per cent of all subscribers to online news and magazine services," according to a Datamonitor report. The success is the result of the country's rolling investment in new technology.

Frazer Pearce, a business analyst and author of the report, said: "Germany has the greatest potential for growth because of the high number of people who buy PCs. It also has a cable television system that, used with the telephone, can provide a faster transmission."

France and Britain could have matched Germany's armory in the technology race, but their problems result from bad decisions made when computer technology entered the market.

In Britain systems such as Teletext are underdeveloped because of poor funding, while the French are suffering from overzealous earlier efforts.

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Alerts in Atlanta and Montana

Anti-terror force deploys for action in Olympics city

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA is marshalling an anti-terrorist army in Atlanta for a series of exercises a day before the anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing and amid fears of attacks on the Olympic Games.

The manoeuvres will involve the FBI, CIA, Pentagon and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and feature mock attacks on the Olympic village, hostage negotiations and bomb-disposal drills.

Although security officials from Georgia are being briefed on international anti-terrorism methods by experts in Israel, the FBI is also said to be concerned about the threat posed by radical militia groups within the US.

Since the 1972 attack in Munich against Israeli athletes by Black September, an Arab terrorist group, security has been a priority at the Olympics.

President Clinton has agreed that the Olympic torch

should cross the White House lawn en route to Atlanta. He will formally open the Games in July and plans to host a party for all athletes in Washington afterwards. White House aides hope Mr Clinton will benefit from an Olympic "feel-good" factor just as Ronald Reagan used the 1984 Los Angeles Games as part of his re-election campaign. Mr Reagan opened the Olympics from a bullet-proof box. Mr Clinton's profile is expected to be higher in Atlanta.

Experts intend that the anti-terrorist exercises in two weeks' time should supplement the training and preparations of the security forces to be deployed at the Olympics. These include up to 20,000 guards, 10,000 soldiers, as many as 2,000 FBI agents and SWAT teams as well as members of the CIA and Secret Service.

"The FBI will be taking the lead and we will be working through some of the scenarios that could happen," a Pentagon official said yesterday. "Prevention is one of the better things to have at your disposal."

Even with their formidable array of anti-terrorist forces, some experts believe that the American authorities are devoting too much attention to Olympic sites and not doing enough to protect hotels, office buildings, power stations and the water supply.

A training exercise in February, involving a mock siege at an Atlanta subway, left doubts about the capability of the

local police force to protect the 11,000 athletes and two million visitors who will converge on the city.

The exercises, which will take place over two days before the April 19 anniversary of the Oklahoma City disaster, come as a reminder of the worst act of terrorism in American history.

Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, the two suspects in the bombing which killed 169 people and maimed hundreds more, have been transferred to a jail in Denver, Colorado, for a preliminary hearing next week. In the meantime, almost \$300 million (£190 million) is being spent to install closed-circuit television cameras and bomb-resistant glass at many of the country's 8,200 federal facilities.

Tension between Washington and radical anti-government militias continues. The FBI is engaged in a stand-off with armed militants calling themselves the Freemen in Montana, where cautious federal agents are involved in a waiting game. They are anxious to avoid repeating the Branch Davidian disaster in Waco, Texas, three years ago, when more than 80 members of the cult died.

That incident, which gave rise to wide-scale resentment against the FBI, is thought to have spawned the Oklahoma bombing two years later.

Sympathisers of the Freemen were yesterday starting to rally support for the militia at Lewistown, about 120 miles west of their ranch.



One of the rescued kittens being fed at North Shore Animal League's shelter at Port Washington, New York

Red-letter day for boss cat Scarlet



Scarlet with her fur singed and right paw bandaged after rescuing her litter from a burning building

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK firemen are saluting the mother courage of a cat which ran repeatedly into a blaze to rescue her five kittens. By the end of her fifth sortie, her eyes were swollen by blisters, her fur singed and paws raw, but she had saved the four-week-old litter.

The cat, named Scarlet by firemen, was resting yesterday with the kittens at a veterinary shelter. Despite Scarlet's battered visage and bandaged limbs, more than 500 people telephoned to offer her a home.

"We were putting out this fire in an abandoned building when I heard this cat crying," said fireman David Gianelli. "Then we saw she was bring-

ing her little guys down and putting them outside the building. She ran in and out of that building five times to get them all out."

Scarlet carried the kittens in her mouth. She deposited each one gently and gave it a nudge of reassurance before darting back inside the blazing building.

Marge Stein, of the North Shore Animal League, where the telephone scarcely stopped ringing with offers of a home for Scarlet, said: "I think people hear so many stories about evil in the world that when there is something like this they want to help."

Larry Cohen, a vet, added: "Cats and dogs have a strong instinct to save their young, but this is the most dramatic example I have ever seen."

European move to condemn Peking over human rights

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

EUROPEAN Union countries, including Britain, have rejected a promise by China to improve its human rights record and are to seek a resolution condemning Peking at the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

EU diplomats yesterday said that concessions offered by China after the Europe-Asia summit in Bangkok last month were unsatisfactory. A resolution, which is bound to provoke Chinese anger, would be presented with America's backing a few days before the end of the Commission's annual session here on April 26.

The text is said to appeal to China to abide by several international human rights conventions and refers to Tibet as well as violations of cultural, religious and political rights. It also calls for better protection of children after reports on the treatment of some orphans, according to European diplomats. They conceded, however, that China had made progress on reforming its penal system. Peking regards a direct con-

frontation as deeply embarrassing. It has lobbied successfully against similar resolutions in the 53-member international human rights monitoring body in the past five years, avoiding condemnation in 1995 by one vote.

Although diplomats privately admitted that the outcome was likely to be the same this year, one European official described the move as a "final showdown" aimed at maintaining pressure on China.

Peking has repeatedly warned Western countries not to take action in Geneva and has hinted at a negative impact on trade. It is understood to have offered reforms in exchange for a promise not to table the resolution. Some EU countries, including France and Germany, were anxious to avoid a clash.

□ Peking: Wang Lin, 37, a Chinese state intelligence agent in the land reclamation department of northeastern Heilongjiang province, has been jailed for nine years for selling state secrets to foreign diplomats. (Reuters)

Spies 'proved China helped Pakistan get nuclear bomb'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN spies secretly rifled the luggage of Pakistan's chief nuclear weapons designer while he was on an overseas trip, according to a report published yesterday. Inside was the first concrete evidence of Chinese collaboration with Pakistan's efforts to build a nuclear bomb.

The search, in the early 1980s, yielded a drawing of a crude but highly reliable Hiroshima-sized weapon that could have come only from Peking, according to US officials. Afterwards, American nuclear scientists made a model of the weapon and confronted Pakistan's Foreign Minister in Washington. They wanted to demonstrate to Pakistan that the US knew more about its nuclear weapons programme than it realised. But the Minister, Yakub Khan, denied any knowledge of Chinese assistance, claiming no such bomb existed.

This cloak-and-dagger account appeared in *The Washington Post*. That such sensitive intelligence information was leaked was evidence of a serious split inside the Clinton Administration be-

tween those seeking sanctions and others who do not want to imperil America's huge and growing investment in China. It is a critical issue for President Clinton. If Washington has proof of the Chinese help, he is required by law to halt US government loan guarantees worth \$10 billion (£6.6 billion) to American firms doing business with China.

The matter has come to a head with the US intelligence discovery that the Chinese National Nuclear Corporation has been selling magnets to



Helms: "China will be an election issue"

Pakistan for a centrifuge producing fissile material for nuclear weapons. Pakistan has denied getting the aid. China says any such sale was for peaceful purposes.

The loan guarantees have been frozen, but Mr Clinton's senior policymakers failed to reach agreement during an hour-long White House meeting. One solution is for the President to impose a penalty, then waive it. Or he could limit sanctions to the Chinese factory involved. Either way, he would have to cite national interest as the reason.

The snag is that, with the election looming, the Republicans are gearing up to attack him as soft on China in the face of its war games against Taiwan, human rights record, piracy of Western CDs and software, and determined exports of nuclear know-how.

Notice that China will become an election issue was served by Jesse Helms, the Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He has declared that the Administration "has neither a strategy nor resolve" for dealing with Peking.

UN ends promise of job for life with 800 redundancies

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE day when a job at the United Nations virtually guaranteed a lifetime of secure employment came to an abrupt halt yesterday with the start of sweeping job cuts that will trim almost 8 per cent of UN staff.

Joseph Connor, the retired Price Waterhouse executive who is now the UN's chief financial officer, summoned ambassadors yesterday to announce that 800 of the organisation's 10,115 secretarial staff will have to leave this year.

News that the dreaded phenomenon of "downsizing" had reached the UN spread gloom throughout the headquarters in New York, where staff traipsed from one farewell party to the next for colleagues.

The cuts were forced on the UN by an aggressive US Administration responding to criticism of the organisation by the Republican-controlled Congress.

But the staff reductions were welcomed by other big contributors to the UN budget, including Britain. "It's a good

idea to try to move forward with a leaner and more efficient organisation that delivers results without wasting money," said one British official.

For the first time, the UN budget has shrunk by \$252 million (£168 million) to a total of \$2.6 billion (£1.7 billion) for the two years 1996-97.

About 500 of the 800 job cuts this year are expected to come from keeping posts open when staff leave. But the remaining 300 will be achieved through a generous buy-out programme that compensates UN staff who choose to quit.

The first wave of voluntary redundancies has already begun in a process that many UN staff say will simply guarantee that all the best officials leave to find other jobs while the dead wood remains.

The most prominent official to accept the buy-out so far is François Giuliani, a Frenchman who worked at the UN for 24 years. He is to take up a post as spokesman for New York's Metropolitan Opera.

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Audiences slaughter Hollywood pirates at box office

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

HOLLYWOOD executives, plus some badly bruised bankers, will discover soon if the greatest flop in film history can "dip under the ton". *Cutthroat Island*, starring Geena Davis and portraying 17th-century piracy, has lost more than \$105 million (£69.5 million) so far, a figure that may shrink into double figures only if there is adequate interest in its video release this month.

Yesterday was the first anniversary of *Cutthroat Island's* "wrap party", a lavish affair in Thailand where the crew shot the last few

frames of blue Andaman Sea. Neither the director, Renny Harlin, nor his star actress and wife, Geena, attended — an indication of the problems that have beset the film from the start.

When *Cutthroat Island* reached the American box office in December, its studio had sunk into bankruptcy. Even before the first clapperboard snapped shut, the film lost its male star, Michael Douglas, followed by the producer, chief cameraman and more than 20 of his disenchanted crew. Liam Neeson, Keanu Reeves and Ralph Fiennes all declined to replace Douglas, who reportedly felt that Davis's role was

being given more wind than his own.

Cutthroat Island fell foul of European Community laws on horse transportation, and the animals had to be airlifted rather than shipped more cheaply to Malta. A photographic director fell out of a crane and broke his leg, sewage leaked into a tank where the actors were expected to swim, and Davis remained on set only after learning that a clever legal clause prevented her from leaving overboard.

The final blow was a delay in release, which meant that it went up against numerous Christmas films.

When the film opened, American

audiences cried with laughter and release was suspended after less than a month. Insiders were "stunned". Ten years ago a film that bombed in America had a second chance elsewhere. With the onset of global television newscasts, it is more difficult to offset a bad start.

On Douglas's orders the script was reworked by the best writers available, and the director had a proven track record with *Cliffhanger* and *Die Hard 2*.

However, the torrid events on location and a ballooning budget confirmed the theory among Hollywood executives that maritime movies are cursed. *Cutthroat Island* was

in progress just as the media were full of sorry details about Kevin Costner's \$200 million (£131 million) *Waterworld*.

For Costner, the bad publicity served an unexpected dividend: it created such public fascination that the supposedly unwatchable film recently recouped its costs.

Films that have lost the most money in their first two years on the market are *Cutthroat Island* (1995/6); *Ishtar* (1987); *Heaven's Gate* (1980); *Paint Your Wagon* (1969); *Cleopatra* (1963); *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1962); *Fantasia* (1940); *The Wizard of Oz* (1939); *Foolish Wives* (1922); *Intolerance* (1916).

Call for colony to free 400 refugees

Hong Kong: Human rights lawyers said yesterday they would ask the High Court to order the release of up to 400 Vietnamese boat people jailed in the colony unless the Government frees them at once.

The ultimatum by Refugee Concern came after a ruling last week by the Privy Council, Hong Kong's final court of appeal, releasing 15 refugees whose continued detention was "an affront to the standards of the civilised society" to which Hong Kong aspired. After talks with the lawyers yesterday, the Government said it would reconsider the cases of the boat people, ethnic Chinese who are unwelcome in Vietnam. (Reuters)

Brazil prisoners reject gun offer

Rio de Janeiro: Inmates holding 23 hostages at a maximum security prison north of Rio de Janeiro have rejected the Government's offer of guns, money and getaway cars. The prisoners seized 40 officials and journalists during a tour of the jail four days ago. Meanwhile in Argentina, prisoners at four jails in Buenos Aires jails were holding 25 hostages, demanding that their sentences be reduced by half. (AP, AFP)

Dismissal plea

London: Residents of the Caribbean Turks and Caicos Islands, one of Britain's last colonies, demanded the Governor's dismissal for remarks in a magazine about drug and crime problems. (Reuters)

Korean aid plea

Geneva: North Korea, admitting it is in trouble after floods last year, has agreed that the UN could launch a new world appeal for aid. Two months ago, it did not want such an appeal. (Reuters)

Rwandans held

Yaounde, Cameroon: A former Rwandan army colonel accused of masterminding the 1994 massacre of at least half a million people is among 12 Rwandans suspected being held here, officials said. (AP)

Nigerians unite

Oslo: Nigerian opposition groups agreed in principle to form a united front against the country's military dictatorship during a meeting at the weekend, their Norwegian hosts revealed. (AP)

Fiat 'father' dies

Turin: Dante Giacosa, the car designer known as the "Father of the Fiat 500", who gave Italians some of their best-loved vehicles in his 40 years with the Turin company, has died aged 91. (Reuters)

Births 'success'

Peking: About 20.6 million people were born in China last year, 470,000 less than in 1994. The China News Service cited this as evidence of success for the nation's tough family planning policy. (Reuters)

Thirst offence

Luanda: Angolan police arrested a gang who stole angle-iron pylon supports from a water treatment plant, cutting the city's water supplies for two weeks, to make windows and doors. (Reuters)

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The collision between two competition surfboards on Queensland's Gold Coast which led to the death of Robert Gatenby, 15, drowned after being washed into the waves

Lifesavers mourn death in the surf

FROM REUTER IN SYDNEY

LIFESAVERS in Australia were in mourning yesterday after a carnival in cyclone surf left one drowned and scores injured, prompting criticism that organisers should have called off the event.

Robert Gatenby, 15, a junior surfboat crew member, disappeared into boiling surf on Sunday after a collision with another boat in 10ft waves off a beach on Queensland's Gold Coast.

A doctor who treated some of the 40 injured lifesavers, who included women, said that he had telephoned organisers to inform them of the dangerous head, neck and back injuries being suffered. "A number of the competitors we treated said they felt the conditions were unsafe," Barry Rigby said.

The event was postponed on Friday because of dangerous surf, but women competitors unsuccessfully sought the postponement of their event

on Saturday. Reen Corbett, one of the injured, said: "Lifesaving is about saving lives, not about putting lives in jeopardy."

But the father of the dead lifesaver supported the decision not to call off the carnival. Jeffrey Gatenby, who watched his son drown, said: "He loved lifesaving and was keen to go out. It was his choice. What happened was one of the tragic hazards of lifesaving."

Scott Derwin, chief executive of Surf Life Saving Australia, said the organisation would hold an immediate investigation, but denied that the surf was unsafe. He also rejected suggestions that the carnival was not called off because of television commitments. "Our lifesavers are called upon in their voluntary capacity to undertake rescues in more difficult circumstances than what they were faced with yesterday," he said.

Peres pledges ballot on peace with Palestinians

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

SHIMON PERES, the Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday pledged for the first time to stage a referendum on any final peace agreement with the Palestinians, including the future status of the contested holy city of Jerusalem.

The surprise move came before the final status negotiations on Jerusalem, Israeli settlers and other contentious issues, due to begin with the Palestinian Authority within days of the Israeli general election next month.

Government officials said that Mr Peres's initiative, announced while the Prime Minister was flying to begin a historic trip to the Gulf states of Oman and Qatar was a shrewd move aimed at bringing over undecided voters afraid that a new Labour government led by Mr Peres would make too many concessions to the Palestinians.

"This step was not made known in advance, but it seems a very sensible way for

Mr Peres to reassure voters that they will have a second chance on deciding on the terms of any deal with the Palestinians if they return him to power," a senior official said.

Previously Mr Peres had only announced that he would stand by the promise originally made by his assassinated predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin, to

hold a national referendum before the terms of any peace treaty with Syria involving the return of the occupied Golan Heights were finally approved.

Mr Peres, who is once again ahead of his right-wing rival Benjamin Netanyahu in the opinion polls after his standing was hit by the recent spate of Islamic suicide bombs, said:

"I will ask the [governing Labour] party for a mandate to handle negotiations on the final status with the Palestinians and to inform them that we will hold a referendum. When you handle negotiations such as these you want to bring results that will have a majority. That is the biggest limitation that exists."

The new referendum pledge was seen by Labour campaign aides as a firm bid by Mr Peres to wrongfoot Mr Netanyahu's Likud bloc, which launched its campaign with claims that Mr Peres was prepared to hand back annexed east Jerusalem to the Palestinians as part of the final status deal. Mr Peres has stated repeatedly his opposition to the future division of the holy city being demanded by the Palestinians, who like the Israelis claim it as their capital.

Palestinian officials are concerned that the referendum could lessen their chances of securing acceptable concessions from Israel about a permanent solution to the problem. They are already angry at the continued closure of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip after the suicide attacks, although Israel announced a slight easing of its five-week blockade of the territories yesterday, saying 3,000 Palestinian workers would soon be allowed to return to their jobs in the Jewish state. Israelis are divided over the "land for peace" formula, with a majority believed to be against any handover of east Jerusalem, territory conquered from Jordan in the 1967 war.

Yesterday, as Mr Peres was presenting his scheme, Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Authority President, published a letter to the Cairo-based Arab League accusing Israel of "declaring war" by virtue of its recent policies, including the continuing closure of the occupied territories, collective punishments and refusal to withdraw troops from Hebron as agreed last week.

□ Cairo: The leader of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad yesterday vowed that the "human bomb" attacks on Israel would never stop until the last Jews had left the lands of Palestine.

"The Jews will not enjoy safety until they return to the countries in which they lived before they raped our Palestine," Ramadan Abdullahi Shaallah told the Arab weekly *al-Wasat*. (AFP)



Peres: opposed to the division of Jerusalem



Netanyahu: overtaken in opinion polls by Peres

Hardship and violence stalk Britain's envoys

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

LAST year there were 145 incidents of serious violence against Foreign Office staff and their families, including the fatal shooting of a diplomat in Nairobi. Increasingly, according to the head of the diplomatic service, diplomats are having to learn to live with violence.

About 100 posts abroad are already classified as hardship posts, Sir John Coles, the Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, will tell a conference today. As well as violence, lack of medical facilities can cause real problems, and in some countries diplomats have to travel with complete medical kits, including plasma, syringes and needles as well as dressings and splints.

One such hardship post is the embassy in Kigali, where a woman has just been appointed as Britain's first resident Ambassador to Rwanda. Women also serve in difficult posts in Tashkent, Beirut and Minsk, where Jessica Pearce has been appointed to Belorussia at the age of 38.

But they are part of only a

small minority of women who have made it to the top, as Sir John freely admits. Women now account for 57 per cent of the yearly intake, but head only eight missions overseas.

"The death of women in the senior ranks today reflects attitudes and recruitment practices of 20 or 30 years ago," he will tell a conference on the future of diplomacy.

In future women diplomats will receive time off after childbirth, will be able to vary their working hours, have the option of working part-time and may be able to hire home helps or leave babies at embassy or Foreign Office crèches.

Until 1972, any woman diplomat was obliged to resign if she married; even now, married women often leave the service at childbirth or if their husbands cannot join them in posts overseas.

Sir John also speaks of the difficulty recruiting ethnic minority staff, a point made in the recent Foreign Office report. At present they make up only 3 per cent of staff. "We are determined to change

that," he said. "I want our service to be more representative of Britain's ethnic make-up. We are trying hard to encourage members of the ethnic minorities to apply. These days you won't only find the diplomatic service advertised in *The Independent* and *The Guardian* but also in *The Asian Times*, the *Caribbean Times* and the *Chinese Times*."

He says commercial work is now the Foreign Office's top priority; more staff abroad are engaged in this than in any other activity, and their numbers have risen by 100 over the past two years. A report to be published by the National Audit Office tomorrow will show that for every £1 spent on trade promotion in South-East Asia, Britain stimulated £80 of exports.

He also gives examples of small successes in breaking into new markets. British diplomats recently helped clinch the sale of £10,000 of bouncy castles to Egypt. £66,000 of whisky to Macedonia and £70,000 of dental floss and toothbrushes to Brazil.



Mother Teresa: fall

Mother Teresa breaks her collar bone

Delhi: Mother Teresa, 85, was "stable" in hospital last night after falling and breaking her collar bone (Christopher Thomas writes).

She was driven through the chaotic Calcutta traffic from her Missionaries of Charity headquarters to the Woodlands Clinic, one of the city's best hospitals, after the accident. A spokesman said there was "no cause for concern".

She was to have received a £7 million shipment of pharmaceuticals from Heart to Heart International, an American-based charity, yesterday.

Americans alerted to Bahrain risks

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE United States Embassy in Bahrain has issued a new security alert to all its 3,500 citizens on the island in the face of growing unrest. A 15-month series of pro-democracy riots led last month to the first execution in the strategic Gulf state for two decades.

"In light of a recent increase of civil disturbances in Bahrain, including bomb attacks against hotels and restaurants frequented by foreigners, the US Embassy believes the risk to public safety has increased," callers to its security hotline are being warned.

Security concerns have also been growing recently among the estimated 5,000 British expatriates in Bahrain.

At the weekend more arrests were reported in the impoverished Shia Muslim villages that ring the capital, Manama. The Shia uprising against the ruling al-Khalifa family, which belongs to the Sunni Muslim minority, has taken on wider significance because Bahrain is the headquarters of the US Fifth Fleet and a key regional financial

centre. At least nine bombs have exploded in different areas since July, including three planted at luxury hotels and two at restaurants frequented by foreigners. Strict security measures are in force at all places of entertainment and many foreigners have moved from isolated properties near the Shia villages and towns, where walls are daubed with anti-government slogans.

The protesters are demanding the return of the local parliament, dissolved by the al-Khalifas in 1975, the release of hundreds of prisoners arrested in a recent clampdown, and an increase in job opportunities. Clashes between villagers and security forces have become an almost nightly occurrence.

In recommending that Americans in Bahrain exercise "strong caution", the embassy says they should avoid travel to all villages, particularly Sirra and Jidhafs. Seven Bangladeshi workers died this month in a fire-bomb attack at a Sirra restaurant.

Korean coup 'was justified'

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN SEOUL

ROH TAE WOO, the former President of South Korea, denied yesterday that political motives had prompted him to push Chun Doo Hwan into power 16 years ago.

Standing trial with Mr Chun on treason and mutiny charges, Mr Roh said that, without martial law, student protests would have led to anarchy and North Korea might have attacked. "We believed that the Government had limited power to settle the turmoil, so we thought that an extension of martial law was required," Mr Roh said.

Mr Chun and Mr Roh, then major-generals, swept into a power vacuum left by the assassination of the dictator Park Chung Hee in 1979. Park's sudden demise led to demands for democracy.

The two former Presidents are standing trial as part of President Kim Young Sam's efforts to deal with coups and corruption in the past.

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Can nature perform miracles?

An eye is made of a large number of parts arranged in a very special way. The number of possible ways in which those parts could have been arranged comes to a stupefyingly large number.

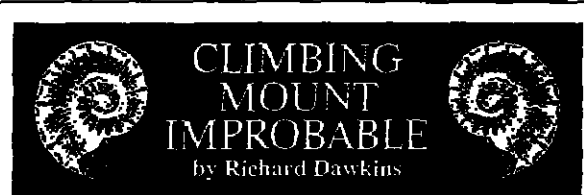
Moreover, of all the trillions of possible arrangements of the parts of an eye, only a tiny minority would see. Darwin knew this. "To suppose that the eye," he wrote, "could have been formed by natural selection seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest possible degree."

Darwin, however, saw his doubts as a challenge to go on thinking, not a welcome excuse to give up. At the simplest level, we find eyes that scarcely deserve to be recognised as eyes at all. Some single-celled organisms, some jellyfish, starfish, leeches and various other kinds of worms are incapable of forming an image, or even of telling the direction from which light comes. All that they can sense (dimly) is the presence of (bright) light, somewhere in the vicinity.

The next progression is the evolution of the living equivalent of the photocell, a cell specialised for capturing the photons of light with a pigment, and translating their impact into nerve impulses. The more layers of pigment you have, the greater the chance of catching any one photon. Advanced eyes like ours have millions of photocells densely packed like pile in a carpet, and each one of them is set up to capture as many photons as possible.

Photocells on their own just tell an animal whether there is light or not. The next step of improvement must have been the acquisition of some rudimentary sensitivity to direction of light and direction of movement of, say, a menacing shadow. The minimal way of achieving this is to back the photocells with a dark screen on one side only. A transparent photocell without a dark screen receives light from all directions and cannot tell where the light is coming from. An animal with only one photocell in its head can steer towards, or away from, light, provided the photocell is backed by a screen.

A better way is to have more than one photocell pointing in different directions, each one backed by a dark screen. Then



CLIMBING MOUNT IMPROBABLE
by Richard Dawkins

THE EVOLUTION OF SIGHT

Even Darwin expressed doubts that natural selection could produce an eye

by comparing the rates of photon rain on the two cells you can make inferences about directions of light. If you have a whole carpet of photocells, a better way is to bend the carpet, with its backing screen, into a curve so that the photocells on different parts of the curve are pointing in systematically different directions. A convex curve can give rise, eventually, to the sort of "compound eye" that insects have. A concave curve is a cup and it gives rise to the other main kind of eye, the camera eye like our own.

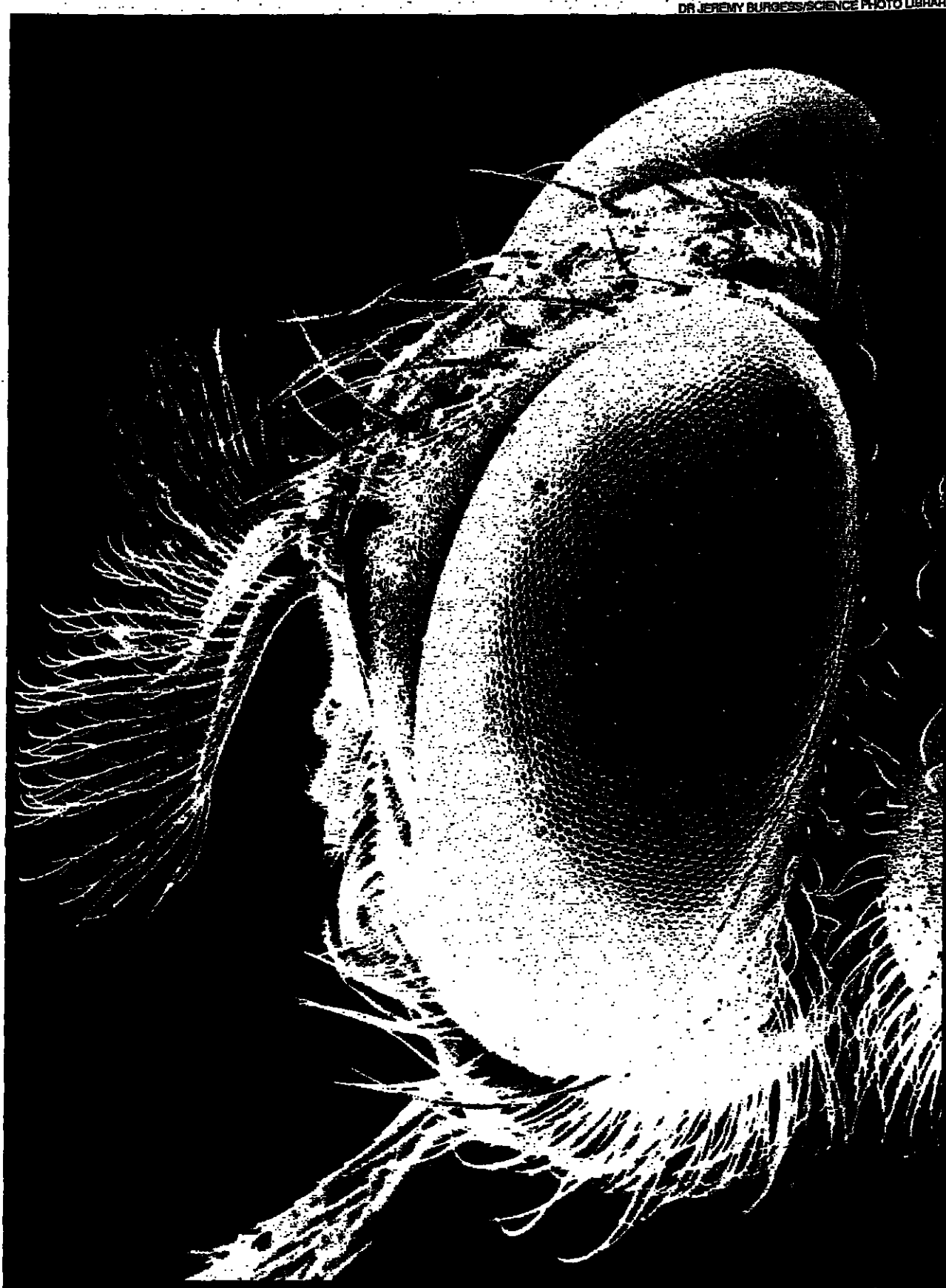
A cup eye on its own is far from capable of forming what we humans, with our excellent eyes, would recognise as a proper image. Why would an unaided carpet of photocells, or a shallow cup, not see an image of, say, a dolphin, even

and every possible way up and way round. The eye is seeing too much: an infinity of dolphins instead of only one. The obvious solution is to subtract: cut out every dolphin image except one.

One way is to deepen and enclose the cup until the aperture has narrowed to a pinhole. Now the vast majority of rays are prevented from entering the cup. The minority that remain are just rays that form a small number of similar images — upside down — of the dolphin. If the pinhole becomes extremely small, the blurring disappears and a single, sharp picture of the dolphin remains.

A first thought suggests that the pinhole ought to work rather well, provided you make it small enough. But two snags arise. One is diffraction. It is a blurring problem that results from the fact that light behaves like waves, which can interfere with each other. This blurring gets worse when the pinhole is very small. The other snag is that when the pinhole is small enough to make a sharp image, it necessarily follows that so little light gets through the hole that you can see the object well only if it is illuminated by an almost unattainably bright light. With the pinhole design you can have a sharpish but dark image, or a brightish but fuzzy one. You cannot have both. Fortunately, there is a way to achieve a bright and yet simultaneously sharp image.

First, think of the problem computationally. Imagine that we broaden the pinhole out to let in a nice lot of light. But instead of leaving it as a gaping hole, we insert a "magic window", a masterpiece of electronic wizardry embedded in glass and connected to a computer. The property of this computer-controlled window is the following. Light rays,



The eyes of the tsetse fly are typical of many insects: they are formed from a convex carpet of light-detecting cells

instead of passing straight through the glass, are bent to converge on a corresponding point on the retina. The result of the magic window is that a perfect image of the dolphin appears on the retina. It's all very well to conjure up a "magic window", but where is this wonderful computer to come from, if not from a complicated miracle? Is this where we meet our Waterloo?

Remarkably, the answer is no. The computer is just an imaginary creation to emphasise the apparent complexity of the task if you look at it in one way. But if you approach the problem in another way the solution turns out to be ludicrously easy. There is a device of preposterous simplicity

which happens to have exactly the properties of our magic window, but no electronic wizardry, no complication at all. That device is the lens. You don't need a computer. The apparently complicated calculations of millions of ray angles are taken care of by a curved blob of transparent material.

It is not difficult for rudimentary lens-like objects to come into existence spontaneously. Any old lump of half-way transparent jelly need only assume a curved shape (there are all sorts of reasons why it might) and it will immediately confer at least a slight improvement on a simple cup or

pinhole. Lenses might have evolved in the first place, from a vitreous mass that filled the whole eye.

The principle of how it might have happened, and the speed with which it might have been accomplished, has been beautifully demonstrated in a computer model. A pair of Swedish biologists called Dan Nilsson and Susanne Pelger have shown that there is a smooth trajectory of improvement from a flat non-eye to a good fish eye. They were also able to use their model to estimate the time it would take to evolve an eye from nothing. Their estimate was actually astonishingly short. It turned out that it would take only about 364,000 generations to

evolve a good fish eye with a lens.

How long is 364,000 generations in years? That depends on the generation time, of course. The animals we are talking about would be small marine animals like worms, molluscs and small fish. For them, a generation typically takes one year or less.

So Nilsson and Pelger's conclusion is that the evolution of the lens eye could have been accomplished in less than half a million years. And that is a very, very short time indeed, by geological standards.

From Climbing Mount Improbable by Richard Dawkins, published by Viking on April 25, price £20.

© Richard Dawkins 1996

Ghostly tales of old age

MY FIRST house in Norfolk was said to be one of the most haunted in the county. Doors opening and shutting, footsteps, the noise of furniture being dragged across rooms became commonplace.

My family never saw anything untoward, but later an elderly neighbour said that after we left he had seen an old woman without her lower legs walking in the paddock by the house.

Another manifestation of the haunting? Or could my informant be suffering from the first symptoms of Lewy Body dementia? Lewy Body dementia affects 35,000 people in the UK. Visual hallucinations are common: patients are apt to see headless people, others cut off at the waist or without legs, or disembodied limbs. The correct diagnosis is important since the standard treatment for hallucinations, a neuroleptic drug, worsens the condition.

Patients with Lewy Body dementia are not the only older people to be inappropriately treated with powerful neuroleptics. A recent report in the *British Medical Journal* of a survey in Glasgow showed 24 per cent of patients admitted to nursing homes for the elderly were receiving neuroleptic drugs, but in eight out of ten the reasons for their prescription failed to satisfy the guidelines for their use. The side effects — increased confusion, bizarre facial grimacing, dizziness and unsteadiness — make these drugs unsuitable for patients suffering from no more than the insomnia, restlessness and twitchiness of age.

By using scanning procedures, Dr Kim Jobst at the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford has demonstrated that it is possible to differentiate between the various causes of dementia and to diagnose Alzheimer's disease which affects the medial temporal lobe of the brain, and Lewy Body dementia, which affects the cortex. Dr Alastair Macdonald, a consultant psychiatrist at Guy's and Hither Green hospitals in London, says that clinically Lewy Body dementia has four characteristics: many patients had symptoms similar to Parkinson's disease; the level of dementia fluctuates; most of the neuroleptic drugs made them worse; and half had hallucinations.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

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RICHARD DAWKINS, the controversial Oxford biologist, will argue at a Times/Dillons forum that Darwin has the answers to all nature's complexities.

The forum, to be held on Thursday, April 25, marks the publication of Professor Dawkins's latest book, *Climbing Mount Improbable* (Viking, £20). He will discuss the difference between accident and design in nature and will show how DNA has progressed through geological time to create our rich variety of plant and animal life.

Chaired by Sir John Maddox, the former editor of *Nature*, the forum will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50), which include £3 off the price of Professor Dawkins's book, are available by phoning 0171-915 6613, by faxing the coupon below on 0171-915 6611, or by sending the coupon and your remittance to Dillons, 82 Gower Street, WC1E 6EQ, where tickets can also be bought.

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Giles Coren surfs through *Debrett's People of Today* on CD-Rom and begins to get the measure of the meritocracy

No Darrens in the Athenaeum

When *Debrett's People of Today* was published for the first time, in 1988, it was billed as the antidote to *Who's Who*, a pantheon to which achievement and merit would ensure entry, rather than birth and breeding. It was to be populist, democratic and without prejudice, a symbol of the classless society with which it all but shared a birthright.

Yet in the 1996 edition, there are 43 people called Piers. I know this not because I have counted them, nor because I have 43 friends called Piers who are all terribly important. I know it because the 1996 edition has been published on CD-Rom. It is surely the greatest democratic statement to date. The names of the 34,000 leading lights of our meritocracy are now available for scrutiny by the bug-eyed nerds who prefer their reference libraries interactive. Simply fork out two hundred quid for your plastic disc, load it into the relevant hardware, and take your pick from the menu.

In the old days, when you

wanted to know how many professional nutritionists were members of the Beefsteak Club, you had to wade through 2,000 pages and nearly five million words. Now you can type in *nutritionist* and *Beefsteak*, click your mouse, and find out in less than a second that there are, in fact, none.

This is a brave move by the 200-year-old publishers, because it allows us to examine their claims of common relevance more closely than ever before. There are, for example, 43 people called St John (remember Rowan Atkinson's problem with the poshest of names in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*). But there are only 29 Garys and five Darrens.

And can it be representative that 1,582 entries list cricket as a recreation, but only 542 mention football? Even more suspiciously, there are as many devotees of real tennis as there are of snooker.

And then there are the clubs. Never before have these most pukka of establishments had their exclusiveness rendered so open to examination. The club best represented in the list of high achievers is the Athenaeum, with 870 members on the disc. Then comes the Garrick (547), the Army and Navy (542), Brooks's (456), the Reform (443), White's (437), the Oxford & Cambridge (428), and Boodle's (360).

The greatest iniquity to come to light, though, relates to the MCC. I found 1,160 members in the memory, of whom only 455 listed



Fiona Pitt-Kethley and Michèle Roberts share a hobby



cricket as an interest. I should like to know, on behalf of all those lovers of the game who have languished on the waiting-list for 15 years, just what those other 705 members are interested in.

Not women, certainly. And while the MCC excludes them altogether, they do not fare much better in *Debrett's*, where 3,043 women are positively swamped by the 30,873 men.

Other strongholds of the patriarchy also remain unbreached. The treacherous cursor unearthed 1,945 Etonians (more than the number of graduates from Ox-

ford or Cambridge), 571 Harrovians and 555 Wykehamists. One third of those called St John or Piers, as it happens, were Etonians, and there are more people called Hugo (25) than

attended Trent Polytechnic (17). There are problems with the disc as a research tool, however: a judge who claimed to have attended "Cambridge University" and a couple of "Cambridge" alumni escaped my Oxbridge search. Such errors make none of the discoveries watertight. Can it be true that only two *Debrett's* names support Queens Park Rangers? The addition of the composer Michael Nyman—who is in *Who's Who*—could make that figure up to three, but still too few to mess with the 22 Manchester United supporters.

Only two names give sex as a recreation, and both are female writers: the poet Fiona Pitt-Kethley and the novelist Michèle Roberts. Four people like pigs, including the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie. Fourteen go for fast cars, of whom two are women. And the demo-

cratic myth is shattered again by a mere 25 people professing a love of beer, while 693 are wine enthusiasts.

The most popular recreations seem to be gardening and walking, but if you are setting up a poker school try inviting the sculptor Nicola Hicks and the Sun TV critic Garry Bushell. Thirty enjoyed "hunting, shooting and fishing", but when I searched for "rap music" the computer, trying to be helpful, asked: "Raphaël?"

The triumph of this CD-Rom is the illusion it creates that you are putting society under close digital scrutiny, without stirring from a plastic swivel chair or engaging a brain cell. But the excitement of searching for pig-loving oenophiles called Jemima soon fades, and you know the exercise is bogus. Something is rotten. You look from the names in the book, to the publisher, to the logic of your own browsing, and already it is impossible to say who is taking whom for a ride.

How Jilly orchestrated her novel

The Royal Scottish National Orchestra tell Julia Llewellyn Smith about being in a Jilly Cooper book



Jilly Cooper: novel research

Jilly Cooper endeared herself to the Royal Scottish National Orchestra when a bottle of duty-free brandy smashed in her suitcase at Barcelona airport. "There was a trail of alcohol behind her and certain members of the orchestra were down on all fours virtually licking it up," recalls John Logan, a horn player. "It got all over her knickers, so she just took them out of her suitcase and started wringing them out," adds Miranda Phythian-Adams, a cellist.

It was 1992 and Cooper was spending a week touring Spain with the RSNO to research her latest blockbuster, *Appassionata*, which she describes as her "sex and Chopin novel".

Last year she joined the RSNO again for a tour of Switzerland. She adored all 86 players so much that she dedicated the book to them, "because they make great music and I love them all".

The feeling is mutual. Few of the orchestra had ever read a Cooper novel ("they're filthy," says the principal flautist, Martin Gibson), but they were immediately won over by the author's gap-toothed grin and self-effacing manner. Recently, they even gave up their day off to be in a photo-shoot to promote the book, something unheard of in the musical world, where spare time is jealously guarded.

"She was so nice to us all. She would say, 'That's lovely, absolutely lovely' or 'You're so sweet, you were the sweetest thing on stage that night,'" trills Ms Phythian-Adams. "I think she's smashing."

Mr Gibson says: "She must be a multimillionaire but she's not biased about class. She's just a normal person." "She's good fun, very sensitive and sincere," says Lance Green, principal trombonist.

Yet, if the disclaimer in *Appassionata*'s six pages of acknowledgements is to be believed, the impossible beau-

tiful, endlessly witty and dazzlingly high-spirited musicians who populate the pages of the novel bear no resemblance to the members of the RSNO. "The high jinks and bad behaviour in the book are totally invented and I would stress that *Appassionata* is a work of fiction," Cooper writes. "Any resemblance to any living person or organisation is purely coincidental."

First impressions of the orchestra as it rehearses on the stage of the Usher Hall in Edinburgh seem to bear Cooper out. In *Appassionata* the musicians would be burping, farting, giggling and sending paper darts to the people they fancied, asking them out on dates. They would be making life hell for the female conductor, Claire Gibault, by making as much noise as possible and ignoring her directions.

In reality, the orchestra is

diligently rehearsing Mozart's Piano Concerto, with scarcely a whisper to each other between movements.

"Jilly wanted to find this air of glamour and romance, but it was a bit rougher than she anticipated," explains Mr Green. "She was looking for a lot more scandal than she found."

"What the punters see are the guys in white ties and tails and the girls wearing gowns, and it looks glamorous," says Mr Gibson. "But it's pretty grotty backstage."

In rehearsals and on tour, the musicians were aware they were being constantly scrutinised. "She wrote everything down in her notebook, two words to the page," says Mr Logan. "She was watching your body language all the time," Mr Green reveals. "My wife, who is the associate leader of the orchestra, says she is one of the best listeners she has ever met."

"She was very interested in the relationships between every colleague on and off stage," says David McClenaghan, principal horn. "On tour you are living very close to everyone for up to three weeks and if you don't get on with them it can be quite difficult. We gave her lots of gossip but it was mainly about other people in other orchestras, because you're not going to drop your own friends in it."

She wants everybody to be really happy," says Ursula Heidecker, second violin. "The question she asked everybody was 'Are you in love?'"

Cooper was especially interested in Helen Brew, second flute, who is engaged to another member of the orchestra. "She wanted me to have joined the orchestra, to have looked across it and have fallen in love. Well, life isn't like that, for me at any rate."

None of the musicians has read the book and they are too poor to attend the launch next week at the Festival Hall. "I'm not sure we'd recognise ourselves in the book anyway," Mr Green says. "I think what Jilly has done is to take one person's character and put it on to another instrument."

"I'm meant to be the randy one," pipes up Stephen West, principal cor anglais. "Bald but sexy so."

At the centre of speculation is Mr McClenaghan, the model for Viking O'Neill, Cooper's golden-haired Irish protagonist, whose description — "Hero of the orchestra because of his great glamour, glorious sound and rebellious attitude" — causes Mr McClenaghan's colleagues to fall about laughing.

"I don't know why her hero plays the French horn," says Mr McClenaghan, who has brown hair, a round face and is wearing a brown leather jacket. "I suppose it's probably the best position to be in the orchestra. It gets all the good, heroic, romantic tunes, you can hear it above everything else and she liked the sound."

Romance aside, Cooper was



Rehearsals at the Usher Hall in Edinburgh for the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. "She was looking for a lot more scandal than she found"

on a quest for accuracy. "She wanted to find out things about the instruments, so it sounded like she knew all about it," says Mr Logan. "She wanted to know if there was time during a certain piece of music for an off-stage trumpet player to go away, have sex and be back before he was needed again."

"She wanted to know all about the breathing techniques for the cor anglais," says Mr West. The orchestra's reply was unprintable in a family newspaper, but ensured itself a place in *Appassionata*.

The RSNO, it transpires, may not be as glamorous as Cooper's fictional equivalent, but it is every bit as raucous and vulgar. "Oh yes, we have lots of in-house jokes about farting," confirms Mr Green. "And while we would never give a conductor a hard time, other orchestras do."

"Female conductors have it especially bad," says Ms Phythian-Adams. "Their voices don't carry as well so they don't tend to be as authoritative as the men, and usually there is big trouble. We have been surprisingly well behaved today with Ms Gibault, probably because we knew we were being watched. People have kept very quiet, when they could have made a lot of noise."

And what of the touring, which Cooper describes as "bonking bonanzas... [where] players started stepping round each other, setting up liaisons weeks before?" "That's not true," Ms Heidecker insists.

Bonking aside, however, the musicians agree that Cooper has got the details spot on, such as the fact that the musicians divide themselves between two coaches: Pond Life, for the abstainers who want to steer clear of the revelry, and Moulin Rouge for the smokers and rabble-rousers.

"Then you have the Breakfast Bandits," says Mr Logan. These creatures, whom Cooper immortalises, are so concerned about money that they decant their breakfast buffets (the only meal provided) into

plastic bags and live off that for the rest of the day. "There are some people who bring two weeks' supply of sandwiches with them. When they get home they've saved up enough lunch and dinner allowances to buy a fridge-freezer," Mr Logan explains. Moulin Rouge stalwarts regard anyone who makes it to breakfast as not being one of the lads.

Whatever the truth of Cooper's portrayal, musicians will never be seen in the same light again. And the RSNO is delighted. "We have this undeserved high-class image, and the book brings it down to your everyday punter," says Mr Gibson. "It's going to be fantastic publicity," sighs Mr McClenaghan. "I just hope we star in the television series."

'Jilly would ask everyone whether they were in love'

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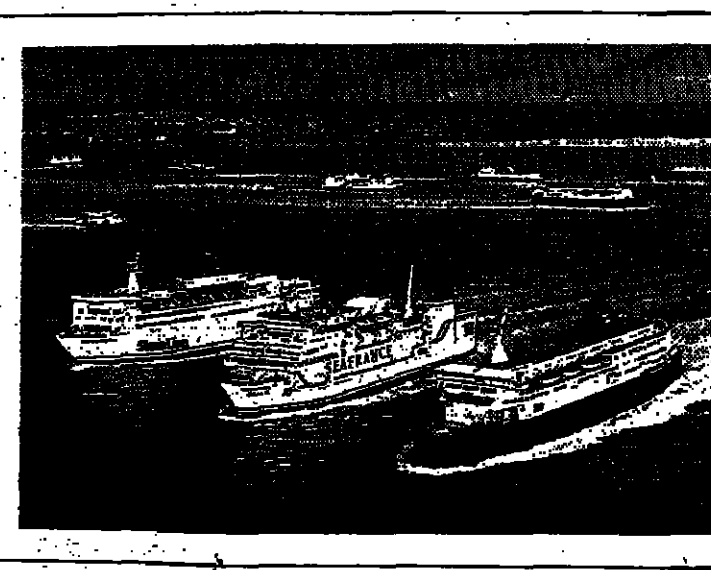
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In praise of useless knowledge

The apparent inefficiency of the Oxbridge tutorial system is its true glory, says Roger Scruton

The Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, Dr Peter North, has appointed a commission of inquiry into the university's future, believing, as modern people tend to believe, that an institution which has been around for centuries must stand in urgent need of change. It is time to shake off the old image of dreaming spires and secluded cloisters, to shut up the dusty folios and to confine the interminable disputes between Aeschylus and Euripides, Racine and Shakespeare, empiricism and idealism. Tweedledum and Tweedledee to private societies of crusty scholars. The task of the university is not to foster those pursuits which madmen can perfectly well engage in unaided, but to rationalise its resources in the interests of the only criterion whereby a university can be measured — which is the quantity and quality of its research.

To this end Dr North has employed a firm of management consultants and, as might have been predicted, the consultants, Coopers & Lybrand, have come up with a fairly negative assessment of the way things are run. All those colleges, duplicating

Thank God for institutions devoted to the idea of waste

resources, fussing over dead controversies, worrying about their domestic arrangements, wasting precious money on their separate libraries, their separate kitchens, their separate domestic lives, and their separate domestic quarrels — surely the whole lot should be poured into a single cauldron, brought to intellectual boiling point, and reduced to the solid matter of research.

If you were worried about your family and employed a firm of management consultants to tell you how it might be organised, you should not be surprised to discover that the whole thing is grossly inefficient, that it would be best to jettison a child here, an aunt or a grandfather there, and to rent out a few of the bedrooms. You should expect to learn that you had got off on the wrong foot by relying on sexual reproduction, and that matters were not improved by the love between husband and wife which had closed your minds to more fruitful partnerships.

Your productivity could probably have doubled without those lingering holidays, and the absurd idea of teaching your children to play the piano, to ride ponies, and to read aloud from the classics — when they could have been quietly and painlessly out of the way in front of a television — is the real reason why you have fallen below the norm set by your forward-looking neighbours.

It is irrational to reform an institution in defiance of its inner nature, just as it would be irrational to reform a family in order to make it into an efficient workplace. The pre-eminence of Oxford and Cambridge over all other universities is not due to their record

in "research" — something which only American universities have regarded as their ruling purpose. It is due to the fact that they are exemplars of the intellectual life — the life led for the sake of thought, in a world that increasingly despises it.

This life is founded on the tutorial, that unique Oxbridge institution, which does not impart information so much as teach students to organise their inner lives, so that their thought, criticism and judgment take precedence over impulse. And the ethos of the tutorial permeates the domestic arrangements of the colleges, in which scholars live side by side with their pupils, on terms which have no equivalent in the solipsistic world outside.

Of course it is not efficient — that is to say, it is not immediately efficient when judged by the criterion of research. Nor is it adapted to the "vocational" curriculum. It strongly favours useless subjects such as Greek, Latin, philosophy, pure mathematics and English. In a market economy, the collegiate university seems a gross waste of resources. But thank God for that; thank God

that in a world of short-term efficiency, there remain these few institutions devoted to the glorious idea of waste. For as surely as short-term efficiency abhors waste, long-term efficiency requires it.

The real value of a university lies not in research but in scholarship — which may look like research to those who have no familiarity with it, but which involves the whole person, invades and orders the mind, the soul and the emotions of those who engage in it, and is inseparable from teaching. Without scholarship, the university cannot fulfil its purpose, which is to perpetuate knowledge for its own sake and without regard to its utility.

Knowledge that seems useless may not remain so forever. Who could have foreseen that the study of ancient history was exactly what our ancestors required when called upon to administer the Empire which we acquired in a fit of absent-mindedness? Who could have foreseen that the abstruse investigations of Boole, Cantor and Frege would one day produce the computer revolution? But this kind of usefulness is the unintended by-product of a study whose sole and sufficient purpose is itself.

It is through the pursuit of useless knowledge that a university justifies its claim to be an irreplaceable public good. And it is the redundant scholar, surrounded by his books and visited by students, who is the finest symbol of this knowledge, and the one most likely to implant the love of it in minds young enough and unspoiled enough to see its point.



Britain turns flabby

When seen from sinewy Israel, our troubles appear trivial and absurd

I have been a lucky week to be out of Britain, out of Europe, with most of the Negev desert between me and the nearest cow. I write from the southernmost tip of Israel, a short strip of gritty sand at the top of the right-hand horn of the Red Sea, known here as the Gulf of Eilat, and to the neighbours three miles over the border as the Gulf of Aqaba. I should admit that I am off duty and only here to satisfy a diving son's lust for coral; however, it has been surprisingly interesting to watch the European opera from half a world away. Seen through the wrong end of a telescope, tiny but clear, the whole sad shambles takes on new resonances.

Most of them are rather embarrassing. Leaving the airport and stepping out into a desert landscape of hot orange mountains and dusty Jeeps, we were asked our first question (the first, that is apart from the three dozen official variations on "Why are you here?" and "Did you let any Palestinians help with your packing?"). It came from the bus driver, lounging in his cab against an Old Testament backdrop. "You come from Anglia?" he said. "Hey, you got mad beef, OK?"

Indeed, we said meekly. We did seem to have mad beef, although actually, the disease is declining. "It kill; a lot of people?" He clearly drew great amusement from already knowing the reply. "Er — only ten actually. And only perhaps." "So, what you gonna do, in Anglia?" In these desert bus-stop political discussions one always ends up having to speak for one's Government. Sulkily we confessed that we haven't made our minds up.

The driver, a keen newspaper reader, to judge by the heap of Hebrew newspaper under the seat, continued inexorably: "You gonna kill the beef? Not just the sick beefs, then?" Well, I said, consumer confidence... but suddenly a topical Passover theme occurred to him. He consulted his colleague for translation and said: "Like the plagues of Egypt?" We gave that appealing, self-deprecating British laugh. In the midst of a desert, dotted at unimaginably hot, dry distances by determined kibbutzim dedicated to Ben-Gurion's dream of making it bloom, the irony of such a self-inflicted plague was not subtle. We were grateful when the bus began to fill with American voices discussing desert sites.

All week, faint but insistent, the

BSE affair echoed around us. "Good beef, not poison!" said the Arab waiter in the fast-food bar. European chatter in the tourist queues said: "Schrecklich, BSE!" and "Mais c'est affreux, ils ont empoisonné l'Europe!" A pair of well-spoken English voices on the bus chattered about their personal tragedy of having shared a steak and kidney pie in 1992. "One just doesn't feel safe any more," said a woman fretfully.

Ten feet from her, a group of Israeli boys and girls in military service strolled past, Ozis on their shoulders. Their compatriots have died within the last month from Hamas bombs; their Prime Minister was shot dead by a fellow Israeli. They grew up knowing that 5km along the beach one way lies Jordan (peace treaty signed 1994) and even closer the other way is Egypt (1989). Their childhoods were spent technically at war with every neighbouring state; their adolescence was tightened and disciplined by universal military service into that prickly, difficult, Sabra temperament which stamps arrogant confidence and unsmiling readiness for aggression onto the most innately gentle and sociable of young Israelis (and which, incidentally, can make everyday transactions in their country rather wearing for the diffident British visitor). A worry about beef? The young soldiers seemed to be saying in every line of their body: "Kill ten million head of cattle because ten people might have died? Do this for 'consumer confidence' rather than for a proven, vital reason? Pull the other one!"

Something of the same spirit shows in the leaders in *The Jerusalem Post*. "World waits for Britain to contain mad cow panic!" it says impatiently, and extends its censure to "an outbreak of hysteria across the entire European Union that is scarcely credible". Or, in other words, what a kerfuffle about nothing much. Given that the rest of *The Jerusalem Post* is as usual devoted largely to the pressing matter of keeping their nation in

existence, this is not surprising. Nor is the prevailing tone of wonderment among older Israelis gathering for the Passover holiday when they asked us, around the snorkel-hire kiosk, to explain the role of the EU in the said kerfuffle.

When you have struggled to maintain your country's existence for 50 years, and inherit an ancient, well-polished tradition of fighting for the Promised Land, the idea of handing over one scrap of authority to anybody else is frankly laughable. When your one Red Sea outlet is less than 10km long, so that the dolphin reserve has to be bang next to the commercial car dock and Defence Ministry barbed wire: when your parasailing boats, towing their shrieking tourists aloft behind them like great white-legged kites, have to turn back

carefully so as not to violate Jordanian airspace by accident, you do not easily grasp the idea of common authority and councils of ministers. You solve your own problems.

Even as a tourist, it is easy to become dangerously empathetic with a foreign country, and to look at the familiar face of your own land as if it were a stranger's. Especially as all week a perilous sense has been growing on me that I no longer belong to a lion-like little country that famously stood alone, but to a flabby and timid and panicking one. Blame what you like: Americanisation, religious decline, welfare, insufficient cold baths; but the real culprit, alas, is nothing more than 50 years of peace. It is a dismaying thought that something so good, so cherished, has also created the difference between the way we scuttle around worrying and "not feeling safe" because we might get a rare disease, while the young Israeli swagger so proudly, believe in their achievements and hold a visible conviction that they can do anything and survive anything and kick hell out of anybody who tries to stop them (another Palestinian

Libby Purves

Trouble in the pipeline

Savings are not on tap, says Graham Searjeant

Imagine you are a Tory candidate trying to defend water privatisation to the average elector in Bradford. In theory it was possible. Yes, water quality is better than in the days of the old water authority. Yes, the rivers and estuaries of industrial Yorkshire are cleaner and healthier. Yes, prices have actually risen by less than allowed in 1989. Yes, most people's supplies are more reliable. No, directors of Yorkshire Water are neither highly paid by business standards nor awash with share options.

By then, the householders' attention, your credibility and any hope of a vote would be long gone. Labour candidates, meanwhile, have been conducting unopposed daylight bombing raids on water: the one privatised utility in which prices have consistently risen in real terms. Genuine ammunition seemed to be running out after the latest price review, but last summer's drought exposed Yorkshire Water, a few others — and by implication the Government — to a new hosing of ridicule. Until Saturday that is. John Major has sworn to the rescue with another radical vote-winning idea, which he hopes will bury the issue on the doorstep. Competition has worked wonders in the gas, telephone and electricity industries. It could do the same for water, but not imminently. No legislation is likely before the election. Behind the soundbite, however, is a long-mooted move to encourage limited competition.

Previous measures have never really worked because newcomers had to lay their own water pipes. So the essence of the new plans is to allow competitors to use local monopolies' network, just as in gas, telecoms and electricity. But water is not physically uniform like gas or electricity. As the bounty of nature, it passes through land, drains, ditches, rivers and a mess of organic and chemical matter that leave it quite different, and usually far from the gentle rain of heaven.

As yesterday's consultation paper shows, this causes complications. The statutory monopolies — whose 25-year licences the Government aims to abrogate — must supply drinking water to British and European standards. Their performance is compared, their liability heavy. Much of the £3 billion a year invested in the early years after privatisation was spent to bring water up to scratch. Standards are now high enough to make it reasonable to use one company's mains for another's water. The drawback is that drinking water would become a commodity, based on the legal minimum standard. There would be no incentive for any one company to do any better, for instance on colour or nitrate traces.

There is also no national water grid to match those built for other utilities. Water was always a local or regional service, linked to river systems and boreholes. Thames Water has built a ring-main around London. Others in the South and East have linked rivers and springs, making supplies more reliable than in the normally wetter regions. But building mains from one end of the country to the other is not practical in the private sector. Consumers would not fund the billions needed for the sake of competition's putative benefits. Yorkshire Water must wish it had built a costly pipeline north to Kielder Water, England's prime underused water source; but there is no chance of cheap water from the Borders being sold to consumers in Devon and Cornwall, who have to suffer both high bills and strained supplies.

Competition would have to come from neighbouring companies, or middlemen, who could be sure they had enough water to spare. The main targets would be areas of high charges next to low-cost areas, as in Kent, Sussex and parts of East Anglia. Customers of South West Water might be better off with the forced savings from a takeover bid. And most water charges are for sewage removal, which is not likely to become a fertile sector for competition.

The financial complications are the trickiest. Most of the cost is in local distribution, which will remain a monopoly even if the pipes are turned over to common carriage. The hillier and more rural the territory, the higher those costs will be. If rival suppliers are charged the average cost, there might be little more incentive to compete than now, except for big industrial contracts.

If rivals are charged only for the bits of pipes they use, there could be a free-for-all for customers near company borders, or near big water sources. In that case, the monopolies would either have to abandon the idea of charging all their domestic customers the same, or lose a lot of revenue. Few might cry over that. But a lot of water charges are levied to fund investment, rather than meet running costs. Some revenue will have to be protected if new reservoirs are to be built.

Water companies will doubtless be hiring much fatter cats than ever to tell them what to do. Meanwhile, Tory candidates will be relieved but domestic customers will notice nothing: except perhaps that their local water company is making a bit more effort to be loved.

Putt down

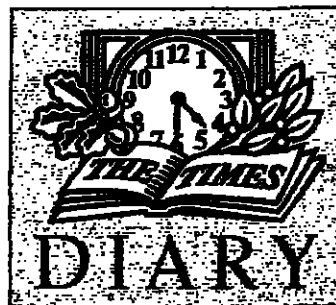
WHILE Carol Thatcher makes trouble with her forthcoming biography of her father, her brother is having problems of his own.

Mark Thatcher, who has moved to Cape Town, was, until a week ago, up for membership of one of the most exclusive golf clubs, the Royal Cape Golf Club in Wynberg. Some £200,000 of refurbish-

ments had nearly been completed on his £570,000 house in the suburb of Constantia. His membership for Johannesburg's swish Rand Club was progressing. His business, tracking devices for shopping trolleys, was coming along. In short, all in the life of Thatcher M. was looking rosy.

This week, however, the wheels seem to have come off, with news that his name was mysteriously deleted from the 14-strong list of those newly elected to the Royal Cape Golf Club. Thatcher, who plays off a handicap of eight, needed a proposer, seconder and five referees for election. According to Shaun Malherbe, the club's general manager, however, Thatcher's proposer simply withdrew his proposal at a club meeting.

● A peek into the bedroom of the Duchess of Devonshire: she has reached the stage in life when she wakes up so long before breakfast that she keeps a kettle and toaster in the room to keep her sustained. It's not foolproof, as she discloses in *The Spectator*, "Waking at 6am, I made and ate my breakfast, only to discover that the clock's similar-looking hands had played a trick



on me, and it was in fact only 12.30am. Too early even for me, but too late to pretend I hadn't had breakfast."

Conquest

MORMONS are cracking open the cranberry juice to celebrate the selection of David Rutley, William Waldegrave's special adviser, as the Conservative candidate for the safe Tory seat of St Albans. Rutley, a sinewy sort prone to caprine displays on mountain slopes, comfortably won selection on Friday night, after rejections by several other seats, including Buckingham and Sevenoaks. Should he be elected, as expected, he will join Terry Rooney, the Labour MP for Bradford North, as the second Mormon in Parliament.

A former Kentucky Fried Chick-

en executive, Rutley has been defensive about his religion in the past, concerned that it might jeopardise his chances of selection. Mormons do not drink tea, coffee, alcohol or Coca-Cola. Happily, his fears about discrimination have proved quite unfounded.

Bird brain

A CACOPHONY at the Adam Smith Institute centres on the fate of Archibald, the right-wing think-tank's African Grey parrot. Using a grid onto which he throws sunflower seeds or peanuts, Archibald has developed a system of economic forecasts that turns out to be more reliable than the Treasury's.

On the basis of his squawky prognostications, Archibald has been entered for the John Wood Es-



Archie: pretty clever boy

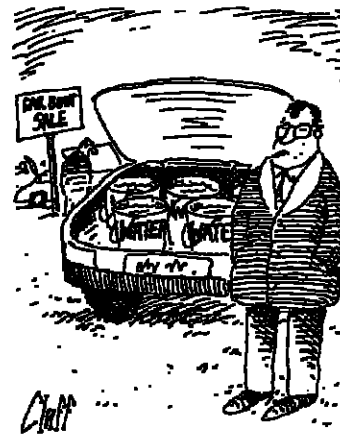
say prize, sponsored by the Institute of Economic Affairs. The first prize of £1,500 would keep him in birdseed for many a month, but sticklers for the rules claim he is over age. Candidates must be under 20 — whereas Archie was thought to be almost 21.

● Over at the Tower of London, they may be on to something. As the rest of the country worries about its steak intake, three new Beefeaters have just been appointed and will be sworn in later this month. This is one of the largest intakes in decades.

Crowned off

THE PROUD burghers of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames are in a frightful flap over republican tendencies. New signposts appear to denote the longest established of the three Royal Boroughs.

Visitors are now greeted by signs for "Kingston Town Neighbourhood" with no royal mention whatsoever and the loss of the crown from the town's logo. Loyal subjects are appalled, although the council leader, John Tilley, plays down the furore: "Most of this is to do with the fact that I am a republican. People go on and on about this, but it's a storm in a teacup."



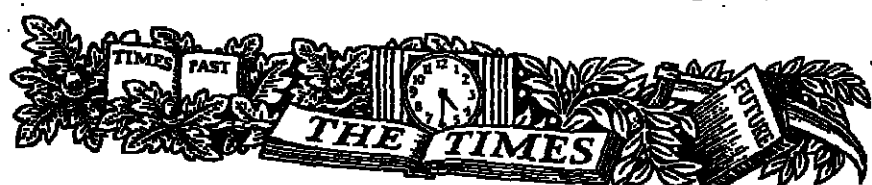
The sitting MP, Norman Lamont, however, is beside himself. "It's outrageous. Kingston is an ancient Royal Borough and any attempt to forget that status is absurd."

● Mohamed Al Fayed, the showy boss of Harrods, has bought his own church. The First Church of Christ Scientist, just off Sloane Square, set him back a hefty million pounds or two yesterday when he exchanged contracts. The building is unlikely to enjoy a religious future — talk is of a Harrods theme restaurant in its vaults.

P.H.S



Mark Thatcher: Cape crusader



POLITICAL JOBBERY

The wrong message from the G7 jamboree at Lille

With French unemployment stuck at 11.8 per cent, President Chirac has used France's position as host to the Group of Seven this year to summon G7 finance and employment ministers to Lille, an unemployment black spot, to talk about jobs and growth. France's Finance Minister naturally turned up; the rest sent their excuses, and their deputies. For Martine Aubry, the daughter of Jacques Delors who is now Lille's Socialist deputy mayor, their absence is an insult to the 23 million unemployed citizens of these countries. A more plausible explanation is that this was a tacit majority vote for the proposition that the best route to creating jobs is less, not more, government spending.

The less finance and employment ministers put their heads together, the better. Sound public finances are the indispensable basis for lower interest rates, lower taxes and non-inflationary growth; and while the grim statistics of the past decade show that growth alone will not guarantee everyone a job in the information age, low or no growth still swells dole queues. Ministers knew that they could expect pressure at Lille to "invest" public money in job creation through fiscal incentives, direct subsidy or the grand public works projects beloved of the European Commission. Rightly they thought it more prudent and honest to stay away.

In only one respect would they have done better to have travelled to Lille: they could have hit Jacques Santer's demand for a European "confidence pact" on jobs firmly and publicly on the head. This is Mr Santer's Big Idea, and just how bad an idea it is emerged clearly from his speech at Lille.

Mr Santer wants a co-ordinated European strategy including "passive and active labour market policies", drawn up in corporatist fashion with Europe's "social partners". Ominously for lightly regulated countries such as Britain, he wants co-ordinated EU policies explicitly in order "to

prevent one country gaining at the expense of another". He wants "new initiatives" — code for a go-ahead to spend this year's EU's budget surplus on public works. Above all, he insists that those who find it difficult to adapt to change and global competition must on no account experience "greater insecurity in their living and working conditions and their incomes".

This last argument is the exact opposite of what Europe's politicians should be preparing their public opinion to face. Europe needs far more flexible labour markets if it is to begin to halve its unemployment, to the 5.5 per cent prevailing in America. Inescapably, that means cuts in welfare protection, non-wage labour costs and job protection regulations which deter employers from taking on workers they will not be able to dismiss.

Since all such reforms will be horribly unpopular, governments naturally prefer to dream out loud about "backing" the high-tech jobs of the future and to hold out training, training and yet more training as the key to the promised land. They would be better employed asking how best to reduce the social costs of the deregulation they know must come, as the wages of the least skilled — who have their own continuing roles in the labour market — are driven down by global competition.

Since the 1994 G7 jobs summit in Detroit, most European dole queues have grown. But outside Britain, its leaders still hope not to have to choose between worker protection and job creation. M Chirac appeals wistfully for a "third way" between America's harsh but efficient world of work and Europe's cushioned workers. Germany's Gunter Rexrodt rejects the US "hire and fire mentality" but pleads with workers to accept "downward flexibility of wages" in tough times. Markets will not wait for politicians to find the philosopher's stone. That should, but will not be, the word from Lille.

LORDS OF LIBEL

Bong! An amendment is needed to the Defamation Bill tonight

The current law of libel is a lottery. Huge sums can be won by plaintiffs; jury members may individually enjoy their newspapers but, when the chance to act collectively occurs, they often exact punishment as if motivated by guilt or revenge or both.

Yet libel litigation — which carries no legal aid — is also expensive and cumbersome: a substantial deterrent to those whose reputation has suffered from an unfair allegation. So there is room for improvement for all from the new Defamation Bill, to be debated in the House of Lords tonight.

The Bill introduces a so-called fast-track procedure. Lord Hoffman, who first suggested the scheme, was inspired by a conversation with the late Lord Rothschild who had become infuriated by regular insinuations that he might have been a Russian spy. Lord Rothschild wanted a quick, easy way to clear his name. He did not want to go for a full-scale jury hearing, with enormous costs and publicity — and possibly large damages too. He simply wanted a swift public statement correcting the allegations.

Newspapers and broadcasters are also sometimes in a similar position, wanting to be able to resolve disputes in which an accidental error, perhaps by confusing two people with the same name, gives the offended party the idea of suing for libel and the hope of large jury awards. Certain people are known to newspaper lawyers as "gold-diggers". Not satisfied with a correction and a small amount of compensation, they need little encouragement from their lawyers to take out a libel action; their hope is that the publisher will pay a large sum to the plaintiff, and in costs to the lawyer, rather than face the unpredictable nature of a jury trial.

Most mistakes can, of course, be corrected by a mixture of printed fact and apology without even contemplating recourse to law.

But, if this fails, the new Bill would allow defendants who admit that they were wrong to make a formal "offer of amends", involving compensation, correction and apology.

In one respect, however, the current Bill is seriously flawed. If the two parties cannot agree on the wording of the correction and apology or its positioning in the newspaper or programme concerned, it is proposed that it be up to the judge to adjudicate. To some this may sound reasonable. To newspapers and broadcasters, and all who believe in the benefit the greatest possible freedom of the media brings, it represents a massive and unwarranted extension of judicial power.

Imagine the opening of the *News at Ten*: "Bong! ITN would like to apologise unreservedly to Mr A for its unfounded allegation that he was a member of a paedophile ring. There was no truth in this report and a substantial sum has been paid to him in damages. Bong! The Government has been defeated on a vote of confidence and the Prime Minister is on his way to the Palace."

Absurd? It would certainly seem so to the viewer. That, however, would be the effect of this Bill passing unamended into law. The unintended consequence would be that editors would be very wary of allowing their lawyers to use the procedure at all.

Tonight their Lordships have the chance to vote on an amendment that would instead allow the judge to decide the wording of a public apology to be read in open court. Under the Press Complaints Commission's code of practice, the newspaper in question would be obliged to print a fair and accurate report of the case. Its rivals would be delighted to give it publicity too. This amendment should be supported in the interests of freedom of speech as well as justice: it gives judges the right to judge in their domain; and editors the right to edit in theirs.

NAVAL GAZING

Greenwich needs a Napoleon for the millennium

Michael Portillo, has been wise to place the future of the Royal Naval College at Greenwich in the hands of a trust charged with guaranteeing public access. The decision last autumn to employ an estate agent to invite tenders for its future use was an excess of privatising zeal. But, if Greenwich is to make the most of its other piece of great cultural good fortune, the Millennium Exhibition, the vigorous involvement of private sector expertise is urgent.

The Millennium Exhibition site is a short journey down the Thames from the Royal Naval College, but two more divergent London fields it would be hard to find. The college symbolises this nation's maritime power and architectural grace. The proposed exhibition site is 300 derelict acres which need decontamination before a single brick can be laid. The wasteland will cost British Gas £50 million to clear.

The necessary energy and vision to make the exhibition a success is unlikely to come from the current coalition behind Greenwich who have had such a difficult time convincing the Millennium Commission of the virtues of a London site. It is important that business, local government and the agencies of national government all feel a sense of involvement in the exhibition. If the nation is to get the show it deserves, and avoid the debacle that London does not need, only single-minded leadership ready to bruise

egos and knock heads together will work. The scale of the task is hard to exaggerate: £500 million will need to be found from the private sector. Building work is supposed to be finished by March, 1999. In comparison, the conversion of the Bankside power station to an annex of the Tate Gallery, an already agreed lottery project which demands only the alteration of an existing building, will not be ready until well into 2000. Unlike almost any other building scheme, a millennium festival cannot be late.

Even if the exhibition is completed on time, getting people there will be a problem. Sceptics fear transport links to east London will not be good enough. Moreover, while private venues were snapped up for the Millennium years ago and alternative attractions like the Sydney Olympics have been making their pitch, marketing has hardly started to attract visitors to the UK's Millennium Exhibition.

The Great Exhibition of 1851 depended on the drive of Prince Albert. The Festival of Britain in 1951 was very much the product of Herbert Morrison's ambition. If the Millennium Exhibition is to be a worthy successor to those two great festivals in the capital it will, like them, require a presiding genius to provide the necessary leadership. What the Millennium Exhibition requires is a business Bonaparte who can make private enterprise work in the public interest.

MP's crucial vote in currency debate

From Sir Julian Critchley, MP for Aldershot (Conservative)

Sir, If the Tories fail to hold Staffordshire South East later this month, the Government's majority will fall to one. I hope it is not immodest of me to say that I shall be it, given my physical state and reluctance to vote on any issue other than one of confidence or on Europe.

I have written to my whip to tell him that under no circumstance would I vote for the Government were it to bow to pressure from the Euro-sceptic wing of the party and include a promise of a referendum on a single currency in the party's election manifesto.

A single currency will be for the Cabinet and House of Commons of the day to decide whether or not entry should be in Britain's interest. In the meantime Messrs Ken Clarke and Michael Heseltine are doing the party a service by resisting any attempt to twist the Prime Minister's arm to make yet another concession to the enemies of a more closely integrated Europe (report, April 1).

Yours ever,
JULIAN CRITCHLEY,
House of Commons.
April 1.

Grassroots views

From Mr Martin Ball

Sir, That Brian Mawhinney claims that last autumn's survey of 30,000 Conservative grassroots members "showed the membership to be broadly in tune with the party leadership" (report, March 28) defies belief.

According to your report of the survey, the majority of participants were reluctant to join a single European currency. This contrasts with the known enthusiasm of many Cabinet members for monetary union. Further, the motions to last year's Conservative Party conference opposing outright the single currency outnumbered by two to one those supporting the Government line to wait and see the proposals.

Far from supporting Mr Mawhinney's analysis, the evidence demonstrates that the Tory leadership is out of touch with its grassroots activists' hostility to greater European integration.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN BALL,
17 Haverfield Road, Bow, E3.
March 29.

From Professor Peter T. Landsberg

Sir, Should we have a referendum on the EMU? "Yes", says Mr Adam Roxborough (letter, March 29). "What matters is the right to choose".

But is this a mistaken view of democracy? Democracy means something different: the right to choose a representative who can then be trusted to make important decisions on our behalf.

The EMU decision is highly technical and to arrive at it requires the study of much background information. For example, is the loss of one chance to fine-tune the economic relations between countries by adjustment of the exchange rate more than offset by the merits of a single currency?

The EMU decision is in my view an example par excellence of a situation where a referendum is precisely undesirable, and where a well-informed decision by members of Parliament is our main hope to get it right.

Yours faithfully,
PETER T. LANDSBERG,
The Athenaeum,
Fell Mall, SW1.
March 29.

Flexible Europe

From the Ambassador of Italy

Sir, In your leading article, "The view from Turin" (March 29), you quote Boris Biancheri, the Secretary-General of Italy's Foreign Office: the reason we need "to conceive a Europe that is different from the one we have been living with" is that so much has changed in Europe in the last years.

What has not changed, however, is Italy's determination to see the aims of the founding fathers of the EEC eventually fulfilled: that of a Europe united and in peace with the rest of the world. Flexibility should be seen as an effective tool to this end: by allowing those among us who are willing and ready to move further and faster in the context of commonly shared objectives, we believe that the chances of eventually uniting Europe will be made greater, not smaller.

Flexible arrangements, in other words, should keep the door open for those who may not be able to join the rest for the time being, and not help setting up permanently different groupings through which united Europe would inevitably founder.

Yours sincerely,
PAOLO GALLI,
Italian Embassy,
4 Grosvenor Square, W1.
March 29.

Business letters, page 29

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Dearing's recommendations and the future of A levels

From Dr Peter Gold

Sir, I disagree with your leader on proposed changes to 16 to 19 study ("Academic questions", March 28) on two counts.

First you defend A levels as the standard by which all other post-16 study must be measured. Not only are A levels a poor indicator of an individual's potential to benefit from higher education but they do not equip students for the world of industry and commerce.

A levels were designed 50 years ago by the universities to replicate preparation for undergraduate study of a specialist nature to which university lecturers themselves were dedicated. A levels are no longer appropriate for the range of students who are now able to benefit from the much more diverse offerings available in the country's higher education institutions — 144 of them in England and Wales alone. That diversity needs the kind of preparation which Sir Ron Dearing's report has proposed.

I must also take your leader to task about the remark that "calling polytechnics universities has not improved the quality of their education". The fact is that teaching and learning at the new universities (former polytechnics) was probably always of a higher standard than the older universities because all their courses had to be rigorously vetted by the Council for National Academic Awards, and because they were principally teaching institutions. Moreover, they have always offered courses more in tune with the needs of business and industry.

Now that the former polytechnics are funded (although still unequally) from the same source as the older universities, the level of their resourcing, the quality of their staffing and the greater opportunities for research mean that the teaching and learning process has indeed improved at the newer universities.

Yours faithfully,
PETER GOLD,
(Chair, Faculty Board),
Faculty of Languages
and European Studies,
University of the West
of England, Bristol,
Coldharbour Lane, Bristol, Avon.
March 28.

Zen in management

From Mr Justin Reay

Sir, Your third leader, "Stroke your resources" (March 21), is amusing about faddish management techniques. You cite British defence and reference as reasons why "foreign" people-management concepts may not work here.

Surely that is the point. Changes in society have altered our personal expectations of the manner in which we work together. We want a more human management style and we respond positively to it.

If British business is to compete effectively in the world we must develop the skills of all our people, unlocking their creativity. That may mean using techniques which have been effective elsewhere.

Developing individual competence in teamwork and in continuous improvement strategies (for which *kaizen* is merely a useful shorthand, not the cultural imposition you imply) should not be so lightly rejected. The future of our country's prosperity is too important for that, and your leader sounded peevishly chauvinist in criticising an important step forward for an embattled City facing more competition from the very countries whose techniques you belittle.

Certainly the manner in which such

From Mr Andrew Mitchell

Sir, Your leader on Sir Ron Dearing's report will come as a disappointment to many teachers in the further education sector.

You state that "the system of General National Vocational Qualifications (GNVQs) and NVQs does not enjoy parity of esteem with A levels". This ignores evidence, presented on your own education pages (December 1, 1995), that "students on vocational courses... are more likely to receive an offer of a place (at university) than A-level candidates". Ucas research concluded, moreover, that "GNVQs prepare students well for university work".

You also argue that the renaming of the GNVQ as an "applied A level" is of "dubious virtue". I agree, but dislike the underlying point that this would debase the standard of the A level. The GNVQ is developing a culture of its own and we should be proud of its ambitious attempt to mix practical competence, subject-knowledge and core skills.

To merge this approach with the narrower focus of the A level and create some sort of hybrid practical qualification would serve neither interest well. Improvements in this field should surely be parallel and complementary rather than merged and conflicting.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW MITCHELL,
(Lecturer in further education),
6 Moor Lane,
Branton Booths, Lincoln.
March 28.

From Professor David Weitzman

Sir, Your claim in today's leader that "modular teaching is the enemy of excellence" is an unjustified and sweeping assertion that will generate causeless anxiety, not least amongst the tens of thousands of students pursuing modular courses at universities. And you alert readers to the "strong suspicion" that A levels may be easier to acquire, partly because of modular teaching. Yet if modular teaching should prove to be more effective, shouldn't we embrace it enthusiastically?

programmes are implemented is critical. A development programme must fit the business need, must be culturally acceptable and must be measurably effective if it is to deliver the improvements which are needed to ensure success in the tough world we live in.

Human creativity founded the businesses which provide our high standard of living. Management techniques in keeping with modern human aspirations are necessary to safeguard it.

Yours faithfully,
JUSTIN REAY (Chief Executive),
Summit Developments
International Ltd,
1 The Glebe, Stone,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.
March 23.

From Mr Will Hopper

Sir, I think you dismiss the introduction of Zen practices into a London bank too easily. There is much to be said for learning what the Japanese call *wa*, or working together.

However, such practices are liable to fall flat on their faces unless they are accompanied by appropriate changes elsewhere in the organisation. There is no point in asking people to be friendly and co-operative with each other if they operate within a structure which inclines them to be

modular teaching, even if it has not always paraded under that name, has long been used in education and training, and our respected professions, such as medicine, unashamedly employ the technique. A modular system that involves testing individual modules can still evaluate students' ability to synthesise their knowledge by requiring them to pass some form of final examination.

Ultimately, all that really matters is what students understand and what they can do with their learning. I suggest that the jury is still out on the question of whether it is better to display the totality of one's coverage of a study programme in a single dash and then quickly forget most of it, or to take a number of smaller hurdles and then forget in stages.

Yours faithfully,
P. D. J. WEITZMAN,
41 Hollybush Road, Cardiff.
March 28.

From the President of the Society of Education Officers

Sir, What are we to make of national policy on education when on consecutive days we have announcements about the development of a unified framework of qualifications for 16 to 19-year-olds and the introduction of more haphazard selection at 11 plus (reports, March 28, 29)?

Sir Ron Dearing properly draws our attention to the needs of the majority of young people for whom A level was not designed and is not appropriate. His attempt to raise the status of vocational qualifications is a timely move to fill a significant gap in our present system.

The debate about selection is a diversion. If greater freedom for individual schools to select their pupils is the solution to raising standards for all, can we expect to be inundated with proposals from schools to admit only pupils from the lower 75 per cent of the ability range?

Yours faithfully,
HEATHER DU QUESNAY
(Executive Director of Education,
London Borough of Lambeth),
Education Department,
234-244 Stockwell Road, SW9.
March 29.

nasty and competitive. The structure will win.

Similar workshops have been held in the US for some years. They are now treated with a degree of cynicism by staff because they have been followed by massive reductions in staff. Employees discovered that the love the company bore them had "all too short a date". It is more important for British financial institutions to learn from Japan the good managerial practices which Americans such as Homer Sarasohn taught there fifty years ago and which the Japanese developed and passed on to the "tiger" economies.

The original vehicle for the instruction was General MacArthur's Civil Communications Section in Japan, after which we have named the CCS Institute, a not-for-profit organisation founded to promote these practices. The disasters affecting, for example, Barings and Lloyd's could have been avoided if what Sarasohn calls "the principles of progressive management" had been observed. In these cases strong middle managers were required — and were absent.

Yours sincerely,
WILL HOPPER (Chairman),
CCS Institute,
43 Flask Walk, NW3.
March 27.

Origins of Grace

From Mr J. E. Humphrey

Sir, *Amazing Grace* — a "modern song" (at your service, Weekend, March 23)? Steady, please! Author, John Newton (1725-1807), *Olney Hymns* (1779); the melody an early American folk-tune, thought to have had a Scottish origin.

Yours faithfully,
J. E. HUMPHREY,
9 Offington Gardens,
Worthing, West Sussex.
March 23.

A little nag

From Mr Robert Sproat

Sir, Julian Muscat writes (Sport, March 25) that the Dubai World Cup is for "distant ancestors" of three Arabian stallions chosen to establish the thoroughbred racehorse more than 250 years ago.

Are these horses old chestnuts?

Yours truly,
ROBERT SPROAT,
51 Talbot Road, Highgate, N6.
March 25.

Watcher of the skies

From Mr Derek Duncan

Sir, Yes — I saw the comet (reports, March 18 and 27) the other night.

With the naked eye, it looked like a fuzzy patch. With binoculars, it looked like — a fuzzy patch. How boring comets are.

Another 1,700 years? I shan't bother to wait.

Yours truly,
DEREK DUNCAN,
Heather Way, 5 Gong Hill Drive,
Lower Bourne, Farnham, Surrey.
April 1.

OBITUARIES

CLAUDE MAURIAC

Claude Mauriac, writer and journalist, and eldest son of the novelist François Mauriac, died in Paris on March 22 aged 81. He was born there on April 25, 1914.

BORN into one of the most famous literary households in France, Claude Mauriac never fully escaped from the shadow of his illustrious father, one of the principal French novelists of this century. This was perhaps inevitable. In the beneficent aura of his father's prestige he had in the 1930s known the civilised delight of conversation with the leading spirits of Paris. Before war shattered that ethos and called on literary men, like so many others, to give account of themselves. He nevertheless engaged himself with the Free French movement when the storm broke, and survived to establish a reputation of his own as a versatile and prolific writer.

As a novelist Mauriac has to be judged by the tetralogy *Le Dialogue intérieur*, whose second volume, *Le Diner en ville*, won the 1959 Prix Médicis. This and its sequels are cast in the manner of the *nouveau roman*, as practised by Alain Robbe-Grillet and Michel Butor (younger men than he, but creative at an earlier age). Like their work, *Le Dialogue* dispenses with traditional realism and concentrates on states of mind and the manner in which objects are perceived from different standpoints and at different moments.

This experiment has its place in the history of modern French literature but it is not, perhaps, an enduring achievement. And Mauriac is best remembered for his 10,000-page, ten-volume diary, *Le Temps immobile*, a record of more than fifty years of French literary, artistic and political life. It is rich with portraits of the famous men and women he had known, first through his father and then as a journalist and writer himself.

Claude Mauriac was born in Paris, a great-nephew of Marcel Proust and of Edmond Rostand. Like Proust he was obsessed by the past. But he differed from the author of *A la recherche du temps perdu* in relying on coincidences and themes to prove that he had not changed, rather than attempting to record the past chronologically.

For the massive undertaking of *Le temps immobile*, which took him 18 years to complete between 1970 and 1988, he drew on hundreds of notebooks, the first of which dated back to his childhood when he was witness to the parade of famous literary figures — André Gide, Jean Cocteau, Marcel Jouhandeau and many others — all



entertained at his father's table.

One volume of *Le Temps immobile*, devoted to General de Gaulle, was based on Mauriac's five years as the Free French leader's private secretary, from the period of his return to Paris and the first years of his self-imposed exile in Colombey-les-deux-Églises until 1949. He worshipped de Gaulle and the volume, entitled *Aimer de Gaulle*, was one of the most intimate portraits ever written of the man Mauriac called "the hero of the wonderful adventure lived by France". After leaving his post with de Gaulle he founded and edited the Gaullist review *Liberté de l'Esprit* for the four years of its life until the review closed in 1953.

Claude Mauriac was also devoted to his father, but did not share his fervent Roman Catholicism. Nor did he inherit his legendary and acerbic wit. Yet what he lacked in creative and intellectual power he made up for on the passionate conviction with which he espoused various social and political causes. Although a Gaullist, he marched side by side with left-wing writers such as Jean-Paul Sartre, Jean Genet and Michel Foucault. Among the causes to which he lent his fervour were anti-

Vietnam protests, the *événements* of 1968, the plight of the Lebanese Christians, political opponents condemned to death by Franco and long-term prisoners in French jails.

Like his younger brother Jean, who became a political journalist with *Agence France-Presse*, Claude Mauriac attended one of the leading Parisian lycées, Janson-de-Sailly, and later obtained a law degree.

He published his first works just before the Second World War and wrote for the daily newspaper *Le Figaro* from 1938 to 1939. But his journalistic and literary career began essentially after the end of the war when he rejoined *Le Figaro*, where he stayed until 1977, and *Figaro Littéraire* for which he was film critic from 1947 until 1972. Later he worked both for the weekly *L'Express* and for *Le Monde*.

Claude Mauriac was always anxious not to benefit from his father's fame. His first novel *Toutes les femmes sont fatales* (tr. in America as *All Women Are Fatal* and in Britain as *Femmes Fatales*) was not published until 1957. It was to be the first of the *Dialogue intérieur* tetralogy. Like its successors, *Le Diner en ville* (1959, tr. *Dinner in*

Town), *La Marquise sortit à cinq heures* (1961, tr. *The Marquise went out at Five*) and *L'Agrandissement* (1963), it featured as its protagonist Bertrand Carnéjoux, an egotist, novelist and irresistible yet cold-hearted womaniser, who enjoys hosting dinner parties whose guest lists comprise the women he has slept with, including his wife and her mother.

But, as such a description suggests, much of this sexual intriguing hovers perilously on the brink of the merely modish, and the combination of it and the tetralogy's parade of (largely bogus) psychological insights indicate a critical rather than a truly creative talent. Indeed, it was as a chronicler and critic that Mauriac was to make his most enduring contribution to French writing. Already, in 1958, he had published *La Littérature contemporaine*, a selection of essays which dealt with such familiar 20th-century figures as Kafka and Ionesco. This received an update and revision in 1969 which allowed readers to look in a new light upon such an unsung talent as Michel Leiris, whose reputation must now surely put in the shade those of many writers of merely ostentatious talent.

Then the huge project that was to become *Le Temps immobile* began to take shape. A volume was devoted to his father, another to Proust; this won the Prix Marcel Proust in 1968. Mauriac found time, nevertheless, to write four plays, literary criticism and further novels, and to complete a cycle of biographies that included works on Cocteau, André Malraux and Balzac. His *André Breton* won the 1949 Prix Sainte-Beuve.

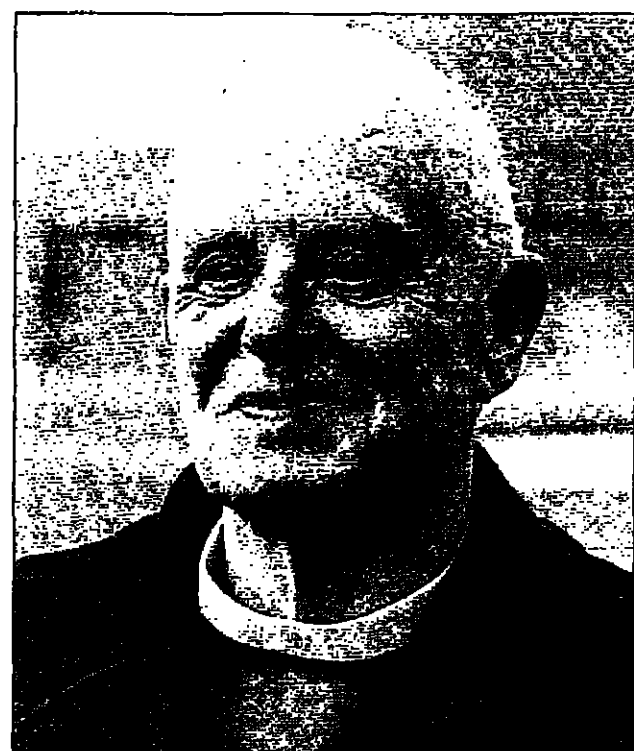
Just as he had waited for de Gaulle's death before publishing the volume of *Le Temps immobile* which is devoted to him, so he decreed that a final volume, *Le Temps accompli*, should be published only after his own death.

An essentially kind man, Claude Mauriac had the air of an eternal adolescent and never lost his enthusiasm for supporting just causes and opposing oppression wherever he saw it. He was arrested and expelled from Spain in the 1970s for protesting against death sentences handed out to opponents of the Franco regime; and he became so involved at one time on behalf of General Michel Aoun, the Lebanese Christian leader, that he applied for Lebanese citizenship.

As a writer, he was never touched by the genius of his father, winner of the 1952 Nobel Prize for Literature, but was a highly talented all-rounder. He is survived by his wife Marie-Claude and by two sons and a daughter.

THE RIGHT REV LLOYD MORRELL

The Right Rev Lloyd Morrell, Bishop of Lewes, 1959-77, died on March 27 aged 88. He was born on August 12, 1907.



LLOYD MORRELL combined a deep spirituality with great practicality. He rejoiced in the highest ritual of Anglo-Catholicism, celebrating a pontifical High Mass in great style. At the same time he was a kindly and perceptive spiritual director to many priests and lay people. Few knew the churches and people of Sussex better than he did.

James Herbert Lloyd Morrell was educated at Dulwich College, going on from there to King's College London to read theology. His father, however, died when he had just started his course and from then on he had to support himself. It was a struggle even to get to theological college which, though, he managed to do — training for the ministry at Ely in time to be ordained at 24.

His grandfather had been churchwarden of St Michael's, Brighton, where he himself served his second curacy from 1936 to 1940. George Bell, then Bishop of Chichester, soon noticed the quality of his work and Morrell was freed from immediate parochial demands in order to become chaplain for work among men and boys. So good was he at this that he was soon in demand to share his insights with others. In 1941 was appointed lecturer for the Church of England's Moral Welfare Council.

In 1944 he moved to become vicar of Roffey, a village near Horsham, but Bell had other and more ambitious plans for him: in 1946 — only 15 years after his ordination and not yet 40 — Morrell was appointed Archdeacon of Lewes. The young archdeacon and his motorbike were soon a familiar sight all over East Sussex, with the former generally carrying a pair of binoculars slung around his neck, the latter to inspect church towers

and roofs. And it was usually Morrell who, off to an evening confirmation or institution up an unlit church path, turned out to be the one to pull a torch out of his pocket.

Morrell was an unassuming man. When he was appointed archdeacon he bought a small semi-detached house in Hove, which he shared with his sister Mary. Some expected that on his consecration as suffragan Bishop of Lewes in 1959 he would move to a grander dwelling, but he decided not to do so. In later years he recalled a Brighton bus conductor asking him where he was now going to live. "I'm going to go on living where I am," he replied. "In that same little house?" asked the conductor. And then, after a bit of thought, added: "You know, I think that's right. Bishops should be very splendid in church and just like everyone else out of it." "I thought," said Lloyd, "that that was a true word from God. I have always remembered it and tried to act on it."

Although he wrote several books, including the well-liked *A Priest's Notebook of Prayer* (1961), Morrell was no scholar. One of his disappointments was that he never had an opportunity for academic study. He was proud to have been elected a Fellow of King's College London in 1960. But although he had been ordained with, for those days, virtually the minimum academic qualifications, he was rich in the attributes essential to his calling — in his case great personal piety and profound common sense, both brought together in a remarkable way. He has always been good at pointing out obvious truths which no one else has noticed.

After his retirement, Morrell retained his stall as canon and prebendary of Chichester Cathedral until 1982, at which time he also relinquished the duties, which he had first undertaken in 1961, as Provost of the southern division of the Woodward Schools. He remained unmarried.

ANNE FORD JOHNSON

Anne Ford Johnson, American hostess and first wife of Henry Ford II, died on March 29 aged 76. She was born on September 24, 1919.

ANNE FORD JOHNSON was married for 23 years to Henry Ford II, grandson of the founder of the motor company. The Fords made a handsome couple during the 1940s and 1950s in Detroit, where Anne Ford occupied a lofty position as patron of local opera and the arts. But her life with the extrovert industrialist was far from painless. Their

marriage failed, very publicly, in the early 1960s, when Ford left his long-suffering wife for a headstrong Italian woman.

Anne Ford had married into the Ford dynasty with the full blessing of her husband's family. Anne McDonnell, as she was before her marriage, had been born in Rye, New York, one of 14 children of a wealthy Wall Street broker. She was brought up in a 29-room apartment on Fifth Avenue, and a summer mansion on Long Island, and educated at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Noroton, Connecticut, and at school in Sienna.

She first met her husband when she was returning from Europe in the late 1930s. Ford was then building a reputation as a hell-raiser, driving around Europe in a Lincoln Zephyr with friends, and visiting brothers. They seemed an incongruous couple to onlookers. She was a stylish blonde debutante, thin and self-possessed, with a coolness in her manner which those who knew her put down to shyness. He was warm and open-hearted but could be downright rude when he had been drinking too much (which was often). The Ford family hoped

that the right woman might calm him down, and they were married in 1940. Ford switching from Methodism to Roman Catholicism in deference to his bride.

For some time Anne seemed to be having the desired effect. She made an instant impression on Ford's friends in Detroit at the first dinner party they gave. The guests sitting around the table were just about to start when Anne Ford bowed her head and said grace. Her husband, much to the assembled company's astonishment, appeared to join in with equal devotion.

Ford took over the reins of the family business from his grandfather in 1945, turning it round from the industrial cripple it had been — eccentrically run, losing money, and no match for General Motors — into the greatest producer of motor cars. Anne stood behind him throughout these successful years, helping him to build up a fine collection of art. It was said of them that, while he had the cheque book, she had the taste. This was not quite fair. Ford knew what he liked, and when his wife proudly presented him with a Holbein, which she had gone to some trouble to procure, Ford pronounced it ghastly and told her to send it back.

Ford's high-spiritedness started to resurface towards his early 40s. He once led a dance band through the shallow end of a swimming pool to the tune of *When the Saints Come Marching In*. Anne did not see the funny side of her husband's unruliness and would sometimes frogmarch him from parties.

Apart from her duties as a mother — the Fords had two daughters and a son — Anne was discovering a gift for organisation. She served on the White House Fine Arts Committee in the early 1960s and at home she supported the Detroit Institute of Art and the Metropolitan Opera Association of Detroit. During an evening which she was hosting for the Metropolitan Opera, one of the company congratulated Anne and hoped she would repeat the party the following year. "I hope not," Ford was heard to grumble. "This goddam opera is ruining my sex life." While



Anne Ford Johnson with Henry Ford II in London, 1956

some commentators thought that the thick-set Ford looked more like a butcher than a businessman, Anne was always immaculate. In 1956 she was voted one of the ten best dressed women in the world.

The crisis point in their marriage came when Anne Ford overheard her husband on the telephone, promising a young woman — Cristina Austin — that he intended to marry her. Anne Ford tried to reason with her husband, and to effect a reconciliation. But several years later Ford finally left his wife for Mrs Austin, the stunning blonde Italian former wife of a British naval officer, whom he had met in Paris at a party given by

Prince Rainier and Princess Grace. Anne Ford divorced her husband on the ground of "mental anguish" in 1964, her settlement reportedly running to many millions. Ford remarried the following year, but his second marriage also ended in divorce. He married thirdly, in 1980, Kathleen DuRoss.

Anne Ford showed extreme courage throughout the process of the break-up. Soon after her divorce, she was drinking coffee with a friend in a hotel in New York. Across the room she caught sight of Mrs Austin — whom she had never met but recognised from press photographs. She felt the civilised thing would be to go over and introduce herself,

and this she did in the most cordial manner she could muster.

Anne McDonnell Ford herself remarried in 1968. Her second husband was Deane Johnson, a Los Angeles lawyer. It was a happy and stable marriage, and Anne moved to Los Angeles, where she resumed the serious business of giving parties. Her extensive knowledge of French furniture was put to use by Christie's, to whom she acted as a West Coast representative, and, when she returned to New York in 1980, by Sotheby's.

She is survived by her second husband, and by the two daughters and son from her first marriage.

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EAGLES, OASIS, TINA TURNER, BON JOVI, BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN, NEIL DIAMOND, HEATHLEIGH TOMMY, PHANTOM, SUNSET, WIMBLEDON 96, PHANTOM, SUNSET, BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN, NEIL DIAMOND, BON JOVI, ROYAL ASCOT
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SUMMER 96
Ascot
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TICKETS FOR SALE
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Remember The Donkeys And We'll Remember You!

Over 6,700 donkeys have been taken into care many from lives tormented by cruelty and neglect. A donkey is never turned away from our Sanctuary and never put down unless there is no longer any quality of life.

We need your help to continue rescuing donkeys and to secure their future on one of our nine farms. A bequest to the donkeys will help immensely and your name will be inscribed on our Memory Wall and will be blessed at our annual St Francis Day Memorial Service.

A copy of our "Guide to Making a Will" is available on request.

The Donkey Sanctuary,
(Dept TM), Sidmouth,
Devon, EX10 0NU.
Tel: (01395) 578222
Enquiries to Dr E. D. Svendsen, MBE
Reg. Charity No. 264818



THE DAY OF THE CROSS

The temper of the age and the mood in which the majority of thoughtful people now find themselves should go far to rescue Good Friday from risk of neglect. Only obtuse self-satisfaction could ignore its significance, and, whatever our modern faults, we have so far shed complacency that today we are in danger more of despair than of undue elation. And if we continue to differ about the cure for our public ills, we are increasingly agreed about the nature of the ills to be cured. They are not, as once men were apt to suppose, mere troubles of the surface — economic, social, or political derangements, for which economic, social or political remedies might prove adequate. They lie deeper and belong to the province

Luton man's perseverance pays as his unchanged team scoop £500 monthly prize

Conway calls the tune as rivals ring the changes

The problem with change is that you can have too much of a good thing. Certainly, transfers help in the race for the £50,000 prize, but some Interactive Team Football (ITF) managers have gone transfer-daft. They have players in and out of the side with every whim. Is it an FA Cup week? Quick, re-organise the midfield. Is there an R in the month? Time to change the strikers. And if it is Tuesday, it must be the full backs.

But Rob Conway from Luton has no truck with such behaviour. His first choice XI, Lewsey Farm, has remained the same since the first kick of the season and finally his loyalty has paid off. Last month he amassed 134 points to win the £500 manager of the month award for March.

Of course, his initial choice always looked to have promise. The team was built around Liverpool, Manchester United, Everton and Aston Villa — all sides with considerable reputations. And, barring one or two exceptions, they have all been earning points solidly throughout the season.

Like many managers, Mr Conway was caught out at the start of the season by Alan Stubbs — who would buy him? How would he do? Where would he go? Unfortunately, Stubbs stayed at Bolton and Bolton stayed rooted near the bottom of the table. As a result he has earned Lewsey Farm a meagre 15 points, but the rest of the side have more than made up for that with six men breaking the 50-point barrier.

The top scorer is Mark Draper with 57 points and, together with Milosevic, he forms the most productive club partnership in the side. Working in tandem with Jones and James from Liverpool, they have been the backbone of the team's success, earning 210 points between them since the end of August.

Mr Conway decided to spend carefully on his strikers, laying out a frugal £8 million for two men. It is the sort of



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



expenditure that would buy you one Robbie Fowler or part of an Alan Shearer, but Mr Conway's combination of Milosevic and Hughes has gained him more points than either of the two big money individuals.

So far Lewsey Farm has racked up 521 points, enough to place the team in 141st position overall. However, there is still a long way to go in the Premiership and so far Mr Conway's boys have done him proud with no need for change. As the saying goes: If it ain't broke, don't mend it. If your team could be doing better, with your players lack-

ing form and fitness, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. ITF has a transfer system that allows you to change up to two players each week. Which player you want to offload and who you replace him with is up to you, although you must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category (ie, a full back with a full back) and keep within your £35 million budget.

The ITF transfer system also allows you to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Cup Premiership. He would then no longer be eligible for ITF and would have to be replaced.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 333 331 line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39 pence per minute cheap rate, 49 pence per minute at other times. If you are calling from Ireland, you must call 004 499 020 0631 and you will be charged at 58 pence per minute at all times.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £500 points.

With ITF, not only are you pitting your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, you are also matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have entered sides of their own, and on the opposite page is a look at the standings in a league formed by their teams.

All matches in the Premiership and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs count and your players and manager win and lose you points. With Jones Boys Six setting the pace, it is time for you to delve into the transfer market?

□ All transfer queries regarding Interactive Team Football should be directed to 0171 757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.



Robbie Fowler has amassed an amazing 96 points in ITF. Surely your team is celebrating along with him each time he scores?

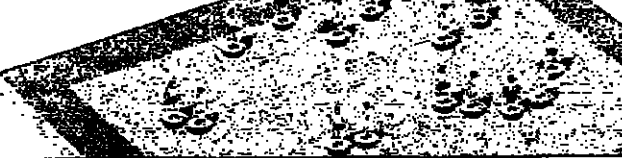
HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All FA Cup Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-6 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts

POINTS SCORED			
Goalkeeper		Striker	
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts	Scores goal	2pts
Scores goal	3pts	All players	
Full back/Central defender		Appearance†	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Manager	
Scores goal	3pts	Team wins	3pts
Midfield player		Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt		
Scores goal	2pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED			
Goalkeeper		Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender		Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal	1pt
All players		Manager	
Sent off	3pts	Team loses	1pt

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match



HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 333 331

* Calls cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times. Rep. 58p

† If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 499 020 0631

You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which must be tapped in and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' five-digit codes.

The line is open from 6am on Tuesday until 11am on Saturday; from 6pm on Saturday to 11am on Sunday and from 6pm on Sunday until 3pm on Monday. If there are midweek matches, the line will also close at 3pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 6am.

You may make up to (but no more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must sell a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category — for example a full back for a full back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget (even if your next transfer would rectify any overspending) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.

Player out	Club	Player code
Club		
Player in	Club	Player code
Club		

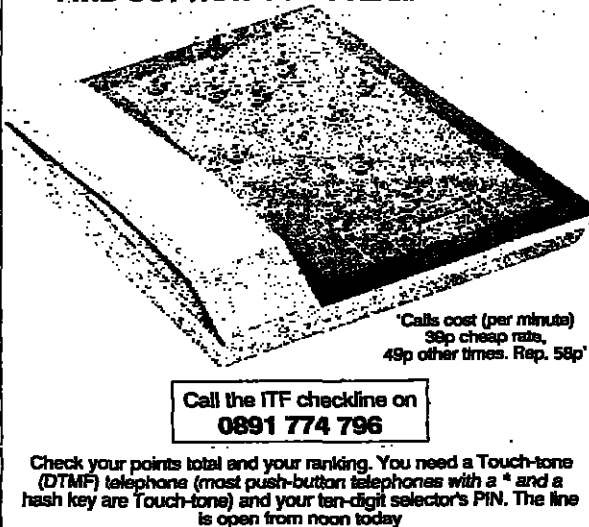
THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITF

Code	Player	IN	Club	Value
12033	G Ward	Club	Bolton	£0.5m
20104	G Croft	Club	Blackburn	£1.5m
40113	G Fitzcarr	Club	Blackburn	£2.5m
51707	M Kavetski	Club	Man City	£1.0m
Code	Player	OUT	Club	Value
41601	P Cook	Club	Coventry	£2.5m
41701	G Fitzcarr	Club	Man City	£2.5m
50802	S Allen	Club	QPR	£1.5m

THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Jones Boys Six	(M Jones)	629	126	S Egress FC	(S O'Toole)	526
2	Gohls Gods 65	(B Gohl)	615	127	Partizan Beograd I	(D Stojkovic)	526
3	Jones Boys Four	(L Jones)	596	128	Jacobsville FC	(A P Jacobucci)	526
4	Laytons Lions	(R Layton)	588	129	No Sam Today	(N Webb)	526
5	Snort And Stubbs	(K Booth)	588	130	Rainbow Connection	(G Weiss)	526
6	Langton Longshots	(J Ward)	579	131	Francis Caldwell FC	(F Caldwell)	526
7	Fair Fair Flapjacks	(C Woodward)	578	132	The Untouchables	(V Beecher)	525
8	Apollis 2	(S Lazaridis)	578	133	Sky Blue Royals	(R G Foster)	525
9	Nigella Night Foot	(D Pabst)	575	134	Bert Trautmann XI	(M Podar)	525
10	Kisspurs Five	(E Kisby)	574	135	Fergie's Fury	(P Simpson)	525
11	Phytos And Smithers	(K Booth)	572	136	Le Societe	(J Aldous)	524
12	Jessicas Darlings 4	(A Nadison)	570	137	Warren Wizards	(J Budge)	524
13	KP Fantasy Team 4	(K Patel)	569	138	Old Turf	(J Radcliffe)	524
14	Tommy Cockles XI	(P Johnson)	569	139	No Fear Ltd	(G Saunders)	523
15	Burnell United	(R Burnham)	568	140	Evans Men	(N Thompson)	523
16	County Pine A	(J Hunt)	568	141	Wings Ltd	(W Doyle)	523
17	Percys Progress	(M Persich)	567	142	Stevens Ltd	(A Heath)	522
18	Edutary	(P Giles)	567	143	Stevens Ltd	(S Thirder)	522
19	Teddy Five	(B Bera)	567	144	Stevens Ltd	(A Craggan)	522
20	Nobby One	(A Brown)	562	145	Gibbins Terry Mark	(TM Gibbins)	522
21	Sharon's Buds	(D Conroy)	562	146	Rigby's Rebels	(A Targett)	522
22	A	(M Corless)	562	147	The Dream Team	(C Farnell)	522
23	Tony's All Stars	(A Bayland)	560	148	West Ham Alliance	(P Cook)	522
24	Shrew Voles	(H Brasher)	558	149	Palm Bay XI	(J Hall)	522
25	Ormy Stars	(D Gormall)	557	150	Dour Rangers	(I Clayton)	522
26	Cameron Athan	(J Reader)	557	151	County Pine O	(J Hunt)	522
27	Adams Man Or God 4	(R Pike)	557	152	Upum	(S Kavanagh)	521
28	Stevens Lions 6	(S Brewer)	557	153	Stewings Ltd	(M Kavanagh)	521
29	Jaggy Thistle	(J Bruce)	555	154	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
30	Sams All Stars	(J Allen)	555	155	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
31	Hastoe Rovers	(P Bennion)	554	156	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
32	Turners Esmers 2	(P Turner)	553	157	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
33	Person United	(A Hewitt)	552	158	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
34	Jardens XI	(P Barnard)	552	159	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
35	Burney's Babes	(T Burns)	551	160	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
36	Aldrie	(A Ford)	550	161	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
37	Nobby Nat	(A Brown)	550	162	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
38	Reggie's Reds	(J Bridge)	550	163	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
39	Eggs N'ham	(D Warner)	550	164	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
40	Rescue City 2	(J Sanderson)	549	165	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
41	Vesuvio	(G Balchelor)	548	166	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
42	Nirvana FC	(J Darvorn)	547	167	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
43	Strangers	(S Banks)	546	168	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
44	Russell 3	(D Shuter)	546	169	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
45	The Living Dead	(T Steadman)	544	170	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
46	Nadar	(A Nevazsky)	544	171	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
47	The Good Bad & Ugly	(K Booth)	544	172	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
48	Points Make Prizes	(D Chopping)	544	173	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
49	Sensible City	(G Cole)	543	174	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
50	The Liberty Lads	(G Peddar)	543	175	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
51	Purple Sunflowers	(N Rickard)	543	176	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
52	Top Heavy?	(P Young)	543	177	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
53	Albion's Town	(I Hedges)	543	178	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
54	Turners Esmers	(P Turner)	543	179	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
55	Pursell Rangers	(F Macdonald Pursell)	542	180	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
56	Don Shuter C	(D Shuter)	542	181	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
57	Waynes Drifters	(A Philcox)	542	182	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
58	DM OOI	(M McGregor)	542	183	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
59	March Pass	(M McGovern)	541	184	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
60	DM 2	(M Corless)	541	185	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
61	The Lockstars	(G Lock)	541	186	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
62	Formby Flyers	(A Norton)	540	187	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
63	DM OOI	(M McGregor)	540	188	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
64	Reeves Supers	(P Sutton)	539	189	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
65	Stevens Lions 5	(S Brewer)	539	190	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
66	Wheatbix Ltd 3	(D Smith)	539	191	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
67	Platty Rovers	(I Platt)	539	192	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
68	Commuting Eleven	(S Evans)	538	193	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521
69	Metro Ltd	(J Sanderson)	537	194	Stewings Ltd	(S Kavanagh)	521

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. The line is open from noon today.

112	S Express FC	(S O'Toole)	526	177	The Fifty Granders	(R N Smith)	516
112	Partizan Beograd I	(D Stojkovic)	526	177	The Black Knights	(R A Green)	516
112	Jacobsville FC	(A P Jacobucci)	526	179	Its A Mugs Game	(K Booth)	516
112	No Sam Today	(N Webb)	526	180	—	(—)	516
112	Rainbow Connection	(G Weiss)	526	177	Cartons Is God	(B Harrison)	516
112	Francis Caldwell FC	(F Caldwell)	526	188	Soot Ltd	(B Scollie)	515
119	The Untouchables	(V Beecher)	525	188	Ruefull Rabbits	(J Whately)	515
119	Sky Blue Royles	(R G Foster)	525	188	Only Can Sever	(M McKaown)	515
119	Bert Trautmann XI	(M Podaur)	525	188	The Select Few	(S Davison)	515
119	Fergie's Fury	(P Simpson)	525	188	Platypus United	(Ms Allston)	515
123	Le Societe	(J Aldous)	524	188	The Rockers	(N Wheatley)	515
123	Warren Wizards	(J Budge)	524	188	Northern Nashers	(P Sansom)	515
123	Old Turf	(J Ratcliffe)	524	188	Arabest	(G Howitt)	515
126	No Fear Ltd	(G Saunders)	523	188	Egerton Park	(D Rhodes)	515
126	—	(N Thompson)	523	188	—	(M Corless)	515
126	Evans Men	(W Doyle)	523	198	Headless Chicken	(B Norris)	514
129	Wings Ltd	(A Heath)	522	198	Goals Guaranteed	(B Gordon)	514
129	Stew's Scorers	(S Trinder)	522	198	Stammore Strikers	(D Aldous)	514
129	Abecassars	(G Shuard)	522	198	Enfield Reserves	(N Cartwell)	514
129	The Magicians	(A Craggan)	522	198	Marta Makes 20	(M Hitz)	514
129	Gibbins Terry Mark	(TM Gibbins)	522	198	Real Madras FC 2nd	(P Bradley)	514
129	Rigby's Rebels	(A Targett)	522	198	Andrew's Allstars	(A Suggitt)	514
129	The Dream Team	(C Farnell)	522	198	Racing Club Hamel	(G Williams)	514
129	West Ham Alliance	(P Cook)	522	198	Nanou	(G Bahdjelian)	514
129	Palm Bay XI	(R Hall)	522	207	County Pine L	(J Hunt)	513
129	Dour Rangers	(I Clayton)	522	207	Andys Elites	(A Poole)	513
129	County Pine O	(J Hunt)	522	207	No Defence Ok	(J B Portwood)	513
140	Upum	(S Kavanagh)	521	207	Randy Rovers	(F Phillips)	513
140	Stigwig Ltd	(S Gorse)	521	207	Tour De Force	(C Culliez)	513
140	Bjou	(M Minasian)	521	207	Overhill Rovers	(M James)	513
140	Stevens Lions 2	(S Brewer)	521	213	The Young Guns	(B Shepherd)	512
140	Lewsey Farm	(R Conway)	521	213	Phantoms	(A Fenney)	512
140	The Mighty Danston	(C Hall)	521	213	Clean Sheet XI	(I Rawlinson-Smith)	512
140	Being Being Buggy	(T Horne)	521	213	Lemonias	(P Gregorou)	512
140	Kissers Three	(E J Kibby)	521	213	J K's Dolphins	(J F Kitchen)	512
140	DM 002	(D McGregor)	521	213	Whitepool Ltd	(A Hughes)	512
140	Nippers	(K Hughes)	521	213	Joe Royles Wink 3	(S Broome)	512
140	Heils Angels	(H Thompson)	520	213	Orbital Brushes	(L Guiliani)	512
140	JRFC 2	(J J Rolt)	520	213	Lario Best Eleven	(E Lam)	512
140	Stevens Lions 7	(S Brewer)	520	213	I Hate Football	(A Wells)	511
140	Harrington Inter	(D Lovell)	520	223	Wells Wonder	(J J Rolt)	511
140	Trefleack Town	(M Phillips)	520	223	JRFC 17	(J Perkins)	511
140	The 2 Ullises	(M Ford)	520	223	Joe Beeneys Donner	(S Siddick)	511
140	Victoria Vardale	(D Gunter)	520	223	Seven Kings FC	(D J Farmer)	511
140	Twilight United	(P C Dilworth)	519	223	The Conjurors	(S Kempner)	511
140	Alexan Dynamox	(A Hill)	519	223	QPR Auctioneers A	(J Peggion)	511
140	Street FC	(S Bartlett)	519	223	Pallisters Army	(S Smith)	511
140	Thelhurst Tomatoes	(O Chamberlain)	519	223	Abergenny Rovers	(S Stede)	511
140	Sullies Golden Players	(G Sullivan)	519	223	Inter Adagio	(T Wood)	511
140	The Gentlemen	(D Grassick)	519	223	Teltown	(E J Kibby)	511
140	The Sinking Ship	(T Blythe)	518	223	Kissaura Four	(J Richardson)	511
140	Demon Stones FC	(M McCauley)	518	223	Richardsons Rubies	(P Dowding)	511
140	New Beales Eleven	(G Gowers)	518	223	APD FC	(A Keighley)	511
140	Devils Or Glory	(A T Davies)	518	226	Courars	(M Stacey)	510
140	SP's Best Photos	(D Butler)	518	226	The Doug Hutchies	(J Rogers)	510
140	Triple Peelers	(J B Portwood)	518	226	Yarm XI	(R Edden)	510
140	Donnay's Dream	(H Matthews)	518	226	Edens Engineers	(P Tobias)	510
140	Red Star Richmond	(S T Giarville)	517	226	Tommy Tobbas	(T Phillips-Brynm)	510
140	Stu's Dirty Dozen	(S House)	517	226	Team's Tuckers	(J Grinsell)	510
140	Eddie's Eagles	(E Woods)	517	226	Razor's Raiders	(R A Knowles)	510
140	Stank City	(M Franks)	517	226	Enemy Bee	(E Brinshtner)	510
140	Seldom United	(T Armitage)	517	226	Parlick Title 4	(C Nicol)	510
140	Baf's Team	(B Ghuman)	517	226	Strawberry Dynamo	(D Seal)	510
140	Robbos Rangers	(R Robinson)	517	226	Gazzas Idiots	(A Roberts)	510
140	Goal Diggers	(C Sacey)	516	226	Kings Kickers	(G Sutton)	510
140	Headstar	(I Stokes)	516	247	—	(—)	509
140	Nokis Rangers	(A G W Whyte)	516	247	Chicko	(S Tynhill)	509
140	Totteridge United	(D Seal)	516	247	—	(—)	509
140	Rempstone Rovers	(N A Woodroffe)	516	247	—	(—)	509
140	Northbank Cardigan	(S Smith)	516	247	—	(—)	509

The players' overall and weekly scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	Wk Ov
10101	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	-5	-11	
10102	B Mims	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	-1	
10201	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	-1	-39	
10203	A Coton	Manchester United	2.50	0	-1	
10301	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-1	-20	
10302	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0	
10303	A Pettis	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	0	
10401	D James	Liverpool	3.50	+5	+53	
10402	A Warner	Liverpool	0.25	0	0	
10501	J Lukic	Leeds United	3.00	-1	-9	
10502	M Beeny	Leeds United	0.75	0	-9	
10503	P Smick	Newcastle United	3.00	0	-2	
10601	M Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00	0	0	
10602	S Hislop	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0	
10701	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	-5	
10702	E Thorstvedt	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0	
10801	A Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-7	
10802	S Dykstra	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0	
10803	J Sommer	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	-5	-43	
10901	H Segers	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-7	
10902	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	0.75	-5	-22	
10903	P Head	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-38	
11001	B Grobbelaar	Southampton	1.50	0	0	
11002	D Bessant	Southampton	0.75	0	-27	
11101	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+8	
11102	D Hitchcock	Chelsea	1.00	-3	-12	
11201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	+30	
11202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.50	0	0	
11301	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-41	
11302	C Woods	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-6	
11401	L Mikosko	West Ham United	2.50	0	-11	
11402	L Sealey	West Ham United	0.50	0	-5	
11501	N Southall	Everton	2.50	+5	-3	
11502	J Kearton	Everton	0.75	0	0	
11601	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-8	-38	
11602	J Gould	Coventry City	0.75	0	0	
11603	J Fife	Coventry City	1.50	0	-36	
11701	A Dibble	Manchester City	2.50	0	0	
11702	E Emmel	Manchester City	2.00	-1	-36	
11801	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	2.50	-5	-30	
11803	M Oakes	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0	
11901	A Miller	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+3	
11902	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	0.75	+5	-12	
12001	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	-68	
12002	A Davison	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	-6	



Stuart Pearce's fourth-placed team, Rattus Norvegicus, needs to improve its record to take a stranglehold on the game

STANDINGS IN THE PFA INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Danish Dynamite	(J Molby)	454	38	Fast Attack	(D Wise)	316
2	West Shambles Ltd	(S Webster)	405	39	T B's XI	(D Wise)	314
3	Nash FC	(M Powell)	393	40	Silver Band Club XI	(T Blake)	313
4	Rattus Norvegicus	(S Pearce)	390	41	Geopoles	(N Southall)	309
5	Tede XI	(S Pearce)	380	42	Elli's Eggs	(R Hitchcock)	307
6	Mac's Moodies	(A McDonald)	375	42	Squark Hubbas	(D Dicho)	307
7	Dred Select	(S Morgan)	372	44	The True Vikings	(P Beardsley)	304
8	Cadbury's Bust	(D Bust)	370	44	Pedro's Pearls	(P Beardsley)	304
9	The Ruff Necks	(R Fox)	361	46	Fergie's Flyers	(D Ferguson)	303
10	J C's Superstars	(S Clarke)	361	47	Sheffield City FC	(C Tiler)	301
11	Southside Old Boys	(M Allen)	359	48	Sals Eleyen	(S Bouch)	300
12	The Moody Blues	(N Spackman)	357	49	Hitchy XI	(R Hitchcock)	298
13	Dodgy Barnes Eleven	(J Beresford)	355	50	Tallight Town	(G O'Toole)	294
14	Poivo	(M Kennedy)	353	51	Complete Madness	(S Chettle)	287
15	J & F FC	(J Beresford)	352	52	Mine Mine United	(S Hodge)	286
16	Mb's	(D Peacock)	352	53	Sheep In White Socks	(P Phillips)	285
17	The Bluesones	(J Spencer)	350	54	The Fair Boys	(L Clark)	284
18	Whitby Winners	(S Whitaker)	350	55	Smoke Cigars	(S Ogrizovic)	274
19	The Travellers	(L Hurst)	349	56	Keepers Greasers	(D Seaman)	266
20	The Fab 12	(F Detras)	345	57	Goolies 11	(D Seaman)	265
21	Fantasia	(D Platt)	344	57	Teflon Town	(K Branagan)	265
22	The Crazy Boys	(N McDonald)	343	59	Pie Men	(J Parkinson)	263
23	Ryton Raiders	(G Gillespie)	341	60	Smart Team	(J Gould)	259
24	Pure Silk	(T Sinclair)	340	60	Lifes A Pitch	(B Marwood)	258
25	Bulldozer Team	(S Stone)	337	62	Kil & Kaboodle	(J Moncur)	255
26	Bruss 355	(G Strachan)	335	62	Gemma's Gems	(G Strachan)	255
27	Barkers Follies	(S Barker)	332	64	Kirby Knuckers	(K Gillespie)	254
28	Quango Utd	(S Borrow)	330	65	The Lepicorns	(G Strachan)	249
29	Rob's Rockets	(R Lee)	328	66	Crane Cracker	(G Strachan)	249
30	Cracker Jacks	(S Elliott)	326	67	Spice Islanders	(S Batsan)	240
31	Eleven From Heaven	(A Lamp)	325	68	Raggy Rovers	(J Darby)	239
32	Kansas City Kings	(T Brecker)	323	69	Rugby United	(R Sneekes)	238
32	Irish Connection	(N Soland)	323	70	Ryton Wanderers	(P Shilton)	227
34	Prince's Team	(A Philippi)	322	71	Manchester Marauders	(A Pickering)	220
35	Avenue Foch Town FC	(M Crossley)	321	72	Champsie Charles	(S Osborn)	219
36	Tosty's Welsh Terrie	(I Rush)	317	73	One Foolish Wonders	(D Fairclough)	216
	The Warriors	(S Dykstra)	317	74	Steamo Utd	(J Williams)	203

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	Wk Ov
30802	S Yates	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	+3	-12	
30803	A McDonald	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	+4	-4	
30805	K Ready	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	-10	
30901	A Reeves	Wimbledon	2.50	0	-4	
30902	A Thom	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-5	
30903	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-18	
30904	C Perry	Wimbledon	1.00	+1	-18	
30905	A Pearce	Wimbledon	2.50	0	-3	
31001	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	0	+5	
31002	A Neilson	Southampton	1.50	+2	+11	
31003	R Hall	Southampton	1.50	0	+7	
31101	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	-1	-12	
31102	J Kjeldberg	Chelsea	1.50	0	0	
31103	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0	+5	
31104	D Lee	Chelsea	0.75	-1	-20	
31105	M Duberry	Chelsea	2.50	-1	-4	
31201	T Adams	Arsenal	4.50	0	+27	
31202	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	+23	-23	
31203	M Keown	Arsenal	1.50	0	+30	
31204	A Linighan	Arsenal	1.50	0	+10	
31301	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-2	
31303	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+15	
31401	S Potts	West Ham United	2.50	0	+13	
31402	R Fisher	West Ham United	2.50	0	+13	
31403	A Martin	West Ham United	1.00	0	+20	
31405	A Whitbread	West Ham United	0.50	0	0	
31406	S Bilic	West Ham United	1.50	0	+5	
31501	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	+4	+35	
31502	D Watson	Everton	2.50	+3	+22	
31503	C Short	Everton	2.50	+4	+15	
31602	D Rennie	Coventry City	0.75	0	-7	
31603	D Bust	Coventry City	0.75	0	+1	
31604	B Borrow	Coventry City	1.50	-2	-15	
31605	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	-2	-17	
31608	L Dash	Coventry City	1.50	-2	-1	
31701	K Curle	Manchester City	1.50	-1	-6	
31702	A Kernaghan	Manchester City	1.00	0	-3	
31704	K Symons	Manchester City	1.50	0	+7	
31801	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	2.50	+2	+36	
31802	P McGrath	Aston Villa	1.50	-2	+28	
31804	N Ardley	Aston Villa	0.75	0	+1	
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	0.75	+4	+17	
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+21	
31903	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+4	
31904	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	0.75	+2	+19	
32001	A Stubbs	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	+15	
32002	C Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	-18	
32003	S Coleman	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	-1	-3	
32004	G Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	-10	
32005	G Strong	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0	

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	Wk Ov
40401	S McManaman	Liverpool	6.50	+2	+71	
40402	J Redknapp	Liverpool	2.50	+2	+24	
40403	J Barnes	Liverpool	3.00	+2	+56	
40405	M Thomas	Liverpool	1.50	0	+28	
40409	M Kennedy	Liverpool	2.00	0	+1	
40411	J McAteer	Liverpool	4.00	+4	+46	
40501	G McAteer	Leeds United	4.00	0	+56	
40502	G Speed	Leeds United	4.00	+1	+38	
40503	R Wallace	Leeds United	2.50	0	+23	
40505	L Radebe	Leeds United	0.75	0	+7	
40506	M Tinkler	Leeds United	0.50	0	0	
40507	A Couzens	Leeds United	1.00	0	+2	
40508	M Ford	Leeds United	1.00	0	+9	
40509	R Lee	Newcastle United	4.50	0	+50	
40601	D Ginola	Newcastle United	4.50	0	+29	
40604	K Gillespie	Newcastle United	4.00	0	+30	
40605	L Clark	Newcastle United	1.50	0	+35	
40607	S Watson	Newcastle United	1.50	0	+18	
40608	C Holland	Newcastle United	0.75	0	0	
40609	R Elliott	Newcastle United	0.75	0	+1	
40610	D Batty	Newcastle United	1.50	0	+32	
40701	D Anderson	Tottenham Hotspur	6.50	0	+3	
40702	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	+1	+34	
40703	J Dazzell	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	+1	+27	
40705	G McMahon	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	+7	
40707	R Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	6.00	+5	+49	
40708	A Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	+1	+17	
40801	S Barker	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	+2	+33	
40802	I Holloway	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	+1	+20	
40803	A Impey	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	+2	+35	
40805	T Sinclair	Queens Park Rangers	3.00	+2	+40	
40808	G Goodridge	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	+1	
40809	N Quashie	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	+9	
40810	M Brazier	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	0	
40901	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00	+2	+17	
40902	R Earle	Wimbledon	2.50	+1	+51	
40903	M Gayle	Wimbledon	1.50	+2	+38	
40904	O Leonard	Wimbledon	2.50	0	+42	
40905	N Ardley	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0	
40906	P Fear	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+3	
41001	J Magilton	Southampton	3.00	+3	+51	
41002	N Maddison	Southampton	2.00	0	+17	
41003	N Heaney	Southampton	2.50	+3	+17	
41005	D Hughes	Southampton	0.75	0	+6	
41008	T Widdrington	Southampton	1.00	0	+25	
41007	B Venison	Southampton	1.50	+2	+20	
41008	M Walters	Southampton	1.50	0	+7	
41101	D Wise	Chelsea	5.00	+1	+49	
41102	R Gullitt	Chelsea	4.00	+3	+51	
41103	G Peacock	Chelsea	3.00	0	+39	
41104	D Rocastle	Chelsea	1.50	0	+1	
41105	N Spackman	Chelsea	0.75	0	+9	
41106	C Burley	Chelsea	1.00	+1	+16	
41107	E Newton	Chelsea	0.75	0	+32	
41201	G Helder	Arsenal	4.00	0	+25	
41202	P Merson	Arsenal	4.00	0	+56	
41204	R Parloer	Arsenal	2.00	0	+17	
41205	E McGoldrick	Arsenal	1.00	0	0	
41206	D Hillier	Arsenal	1.00	0	+6	
41207	J Jensen	Arsenal	1.00	0	+18	
41208	D Platt	Arsenal	4.50	0	+39	
41209	A Clarke	Arsenal	1.50	0	+2	
41301	J Sheridan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+10	
41303	C Waddle	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+32	
41304	G Hyde	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+17	
41305	K Inge	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+5	
41308	R Jones	Sheffield Wednesday	0.75	0	0	
41307	M Williams	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	+2	
41308	L Briscoe	Sheffield Wednesday	0.75	0	+16	
41309	M Pemberton	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+25	
41401	J Moncur	West Ham United	3.00	0	+19	
41405	I Bishop	West Ham United	1.50	0	+44	
41406	D Gordon	West Ham United	1.00	0	0	

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY APRIL 2 1996

Baby Bells plan \$50bn merger

FROM RICHARD THOMSON
IN NEW YORK

THE pace of consolidation in the global telecommunications industry gathered speed yesterday with the proposed merger of two US regional telephone companies, creating a new entity that is second in size only to AT&T in America.

A merger of SBC Communications, based in Texas, and California's Pacific Telesis Group will be one of the largest in US corporate history. It will create a company worth more than \$50 billion, with 100,000 employees and revenues of

more than \$21 billion. As British Telecom and Cable and Wireless continued talks in London aimed at securing a £30 billion merger, executives of the two American companies said their own merger was driven by the need to create a company big enough to break into the international market.

After their respective mergers, the US and UK companies will be similar in size, ranking third or fourth largest in the world.

John Wilks, telecommunications analyst at Brown Brothers Harriman, the New York broker, said: "International telecoms is a major factor in this deal. International

business is growing faster than the domestic side, and size matters in this field."

California is attracting competing phone companies because it is seen as a gateway for international traffic into the rapidly growing markets of the Pacific Rim and Mexico. SBC and PacTel are looking to take a substantial slice of the \$70 billion-a-year long-distance traffic "California is a window on to the Pacific Rim," said Mr Wilks.

Protecting their home turf, however, is just as strong a motivation for the two companies. The US telecommunications industry has been thrown into turmoil by recent

legislation that allows the Baby Bells and the long-distance call companies, such as AT&T and MCI, to break into each other's markets. To meet the increased competition, AT&T is splitting itself into three, while many of the seven Baby Bell companies believe the only way to survive is to merge.

SBC is effectively taking over PacTel in a stock swap that values PacTel shares at \$39 each, a 41 per cent premium to its Friday closing price. The California company, which is the smallest of the Baby Bells, was already suffering from inroads by competitors into its lucrative market, with a 12 per cent

drop in profits in the final quarter of last year, its shares near a 52-week low and rumours that it was considering cutting its dividend. It also spun off its lucrative wireless phone company two years ago which cut its revenues. SBC, by contrast, is performing strongly with a 22 per cent jump in fourth quarter profits. The new group will be called SBC Communications Inc.

Among the other local phone companies, Bell Atlantic and Nynex, two East Coast operators, have been in merger talks but are yet to agree on price. SBC and PacTel said they did not expect any antitrust or competitive issues to

delay the merger or cause regulatory problems because they operate in different regions and only SBC has a cellular phone network.

Jan Lang, President of the Board of Trade, yesterday made it clear that the Government has not given any approval in principle to a possible merger of BT and C&W. He said: "Should these two companies propose a merger, then the competition authorities in the UK, in Europe and in other parts of the world need to consider the position. It would be inappropriate for the UK Government to prejudge any future decisions by the UK competition authorities."

EC to call for social clause in trade deals

FROM PHILIP BASSETT IN LILLE

BRUSSELS will today bring into the open a simmering row between the world's leading industrial nations over attaching minimum employment standards to international trade agreements when Europe's Social Affairs Commissioner calls clearly for a new "social clause" to trade deals.

The move will be strongly opposed by the UK Government, which insisted yesterday at the Group of Seven (G7) jobs conference that it would not accept any such imposition of international labour standards.

It follows a sharp coded attack on Britain's policies at the conference yesterday by Jacques Santer, European Commission President, who claimed, against the disagreement of Britain, a consensus on the need for a co-ordinated European and macroeconomic strategy to combat unemployment.

Padraig Flynn, EC Commissioner, will today tell the G7 jobs conference in Lille, north-

He will deny that a social clause attached to trade agreements will "cut down the competitive capacity of developing countries."

Britain, which has strongly opposed the issue of the linking of employment standards to international trade agreements being included on the agenda for the Lille conference, angrily attacked the idea of any form of social clause.

Gillian Shephard, the Employment and Education Secretary, rejected a social clause. She told the G7 conference: "While we deplore practices that are in any way evil, we should leave these matters to the countries themselves."

Linking the EU social chapter from which the United Kingdom has opted-out of a social clause, she said: "It is not acceptable at the European level for practices to be imposed from outside. Equally it is not acceptable at an international level."

Minimum job standards attached to trade agreements would not help developing countries: "We don't want to see countries held back by the imposition of international standards," the minister added.

Britain claims that Canada, Japan and even the United States support the United Kingdom's opposition to a social clause. In his speech to the G7 conference, President Chirac strongly backed a social clause, arguing that there were situations which would be "less and less tolerated" as international competition intensified.

Arguing that people found "more or less disguised" forms of "adult or child slavery" intolerable, President Chirac said: "We should all become aware that liberalisation of trade, development of employment and respect for a number of universal rules cannot be dissociated." If there was to be a greater freedom of trade, "a few basic rules" had to be applied to guarantee people's dignity.

Britain made clear its disagreement with the President's message on trade and jobs, although it welcomed his guarded endorsement for more flexible labour market practices.



Carrying the can. Jonathan Fry, the chief executive of Burmah Castrol, right, and Brian Hardy, the finance director, celebrate a 15 per cent rise in full-year profits to £253 million, which was announced yesterday. Story 27, Tempus 28

Factory output down again

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH manufacturing activity contracted in March, marking the seventh month in a row where the sector has been virtually stagnant, according to the latest survey from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply.

The institute's purchasing managers' survey fell to 49.7 in March from 49.9 in February. Any number under 50 signals a contraction in the sector. The manufacturing sector is still struggling to emerge from the weight of a huge build-up of stocks last year as firms overestimated the strength of demand.

In an attempt to offload some of these stocks, factories slashed prices. The institute's prices index fell to 43.3 from 44.4 in February, the sharpest drop since July 1991, the month the survey began.

This is potentially excellent news for inflation and the City was yesterday talking about the possibility of another cut in base rates, perhaps in the summer. Most analysts think that the monetary meeting tomorrow is too soon to cut rates again.

The purchasing managers' survey showed that firms reduced output in an attempt to cut stock levels. The output index slumped to its lowest level since October 1992. The employment index fell for the third successive month as companies laid off people in response to weak demand. New orders were up, but only slightly.

There was some pick-up in demand for consumer goods, but that was not strong enough to balance declines in other sectors. Peter Thomson, director-general of the institute, said: "What we are seeing is a two-tiered manufacturing economy with strong growth reported by purchasing managers in consumer industries and contraction in other sectors."

The Government is relying on 3.5 per cent growth in consumer spending this year to help to achieve its overall growth forecast of 3 per cent. But most independent economists doubt that spending will be strong enough to counteract the negative effect of the stocks cycle early in the year.

Separately, the Bank of England reported a 0.5 per cent increase in M0, the narrow money supply, in March. This depressed the annual rate of growth in the measure to 5.4 per cent from 6.0 per cent in February.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKETS		
INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3718.4	(+18.7)
Yield	3.95%	
FT-SE All share	1850.22	(+6.78)
Nikkei	21560.39	(+153.54)
New York		
Dow Jones	5904.84	(+17.70)*
S&P Composite	649.78	(+4.28)*
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5.4%	(5.4%)
Long Bond	8.1%	(8.1%)
Yield	6.87%	(6.87%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month interbank	6.4%	(6.4%)
Libor long call	8.1%	(8.1%)
Future (Jun)	105.0%	(104.1%)
STERLING		
New York	1.5844*	(1.5270)
London		
\$	1.5255	(1.5263)
DM	2.2584	(2.2532)
FF	7.6860	(7.6870)
SF	1.8213	(1.8152)
Yen	163.86	(163.23)
E index	83.6	(83.4)
\$/\$/\$ DOLLAR		
London		
DM	1.4822*	(1.4783)
FF	5.0478*	(5.0332)
SF	1.1942*	(1.1900)
Yen	107.50*	(107.25)
S index	96.0	(95.8)
Tokyo close Yen	107.52	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Jun)	\$18.75	(\$18.35)
GOLD		
London close	\$394.75	(\$396.55)
* denotes midday trading price		

Judge gives provisional ruling on BCCI

BY OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England appears to have won the first round of its battle with the liquidators of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International after a High Court judge yesterday made a provisional ruling that the Bank was not liable.

Mr Justice Clarke agreed to take further submissions from Deloitte & Touche, the liquidators, and the Bank over whether it could be liable for breach of duty and abuse of office in relation to its supervision of BCCI. But he said his provisional view about whether the plaintiffs' alleged losses were capable of being caused in law by the alleged actions of the Bank was no.

Deloitte & Touche was suing the Bank for damages on behalf of 6,000 depositors with more than £500 million on deposit at BCCI when it collapsed in July 1991. The case is the first action on such a large scale against the Bank.

The liquidators viewed the provisional ruling in a far more positive light. In a statement of their interpretation of the ruling, the judge answered that the Bank could be liable "provided it was shown it had a proper appreciation of the probability of the alleged abuse of power causing loss to depositors."

However, a Bank spokesman said: "The Bank is pleased with the provisional judgment, the central conclusions of which are that currently the Bank is not capable of being held liable to the plaintiffs for misfeasance of public office and that the plaintiffs' alleged losses were not caused in law by the Bank."

NatWest Markets warned

BY PATRICIA TERHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Takeover Panel has given a severe warning to NatWest Markets after analysts published a note recommending Rentokil's hostile £1.8 billion bid for BET, failing to disclose its relationship with Rentokil.

Paul Morland and David Allchurch published research last week called *No Way Out*. They said: "Rentokil's exemplary track record makes it a fearsome opponent and BET appears to have little chance of escaping its clutches. We conclude in this note that Rentokil's initial offer is generous and BET shareholders should not assume it will be raised."

But they did not reveal that NWM is aligned with Rentokil, as underwriter for the bid's debt and equity. The Panel has told NatWest it must not use that research again and any other must make clear the bank is associated with the Rentokil bid and must be approved by the Panel.

Pennington, page 27

Cup overflows for Edwards with United share sale

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

DIRECTORS of Manchester United, still celebrating their club's FA Cup semi-final success, have raised £7.4 million through share sales.

Martin Edwards, chief executive, is probably ordering his team's champagne after cashing in shares worth £2.1 million. He took advantage of Manchester United's recent stock market success to sell off 785,000 shares, at 270p, which

he has held since the company floated at 80p in 1991. His wife and the family trust also sold a further 650,000 shares at the same price, raising £2.3 million.

The deal, made ahead of Sunday's FA Cup semi-final triumph, will result in Mr Edwards reducing his beneficial holding in the company from around 25.8 per cent to 23.2 per cent. He was unavailable to comment on the sale yesterday. But United said that he had sold at the end of the closed period and that he had made a commitment not to make any further sales in the next six months without the prior consent of Merrill Lynch, the broker.

Amer AIMidani, a non-executive director, raised £2 million selling 750,000 shares. He retains a 2.93 per cent interest. Robin Launders, financial director, made a profit of £1 million after exercising 500,000 share options at 67.8p. Shares in Manchester United closed unchanged at a record high of 292p.

Cup defeat did not seem to dampen Chelsea fans enthusiasm for shares in Chelsea Village, the parent company of Chelsea Football Club. Robin Ellis and Co, the company's brokers, described the first day trading in Chelsea shares on the Alternative Investment Market as proceeding "beautifully". The share price closed up 5p at 60p with around 4 million shares, out of the 9 million available, sold.



Martin Edwards sold 785,000 shares at 270p yesterday

Empty seats, page 48

John Lydon.
His release of the Sex Pistols
may, for some, be a low point.

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Mortgage at 3.99% fixed until March 1998
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JOHN CHARCOL

Britain backs US over job security

By Philip Bassett,
Industrial Editor

BRITAIN yesterday seized on a new idea from America on job security in a clear attempt to fend off Labour attacks over widespread feelings of greater insecurity at work.

America proposed at the G7 jobs summit in Lille that countries should aim for "security of employability" — people's confidence of being hired again even if they lose their jobs — in a move that was immediately endorsed by the UK.

Tony Blair is pressing the Government on the issue of what Labour claims is extensive job insecurity, and ministers were delighted that they were able to endorse an idea from the Democrat US Government, which has strong links with the Labour leadership, in setting a new target for job security.

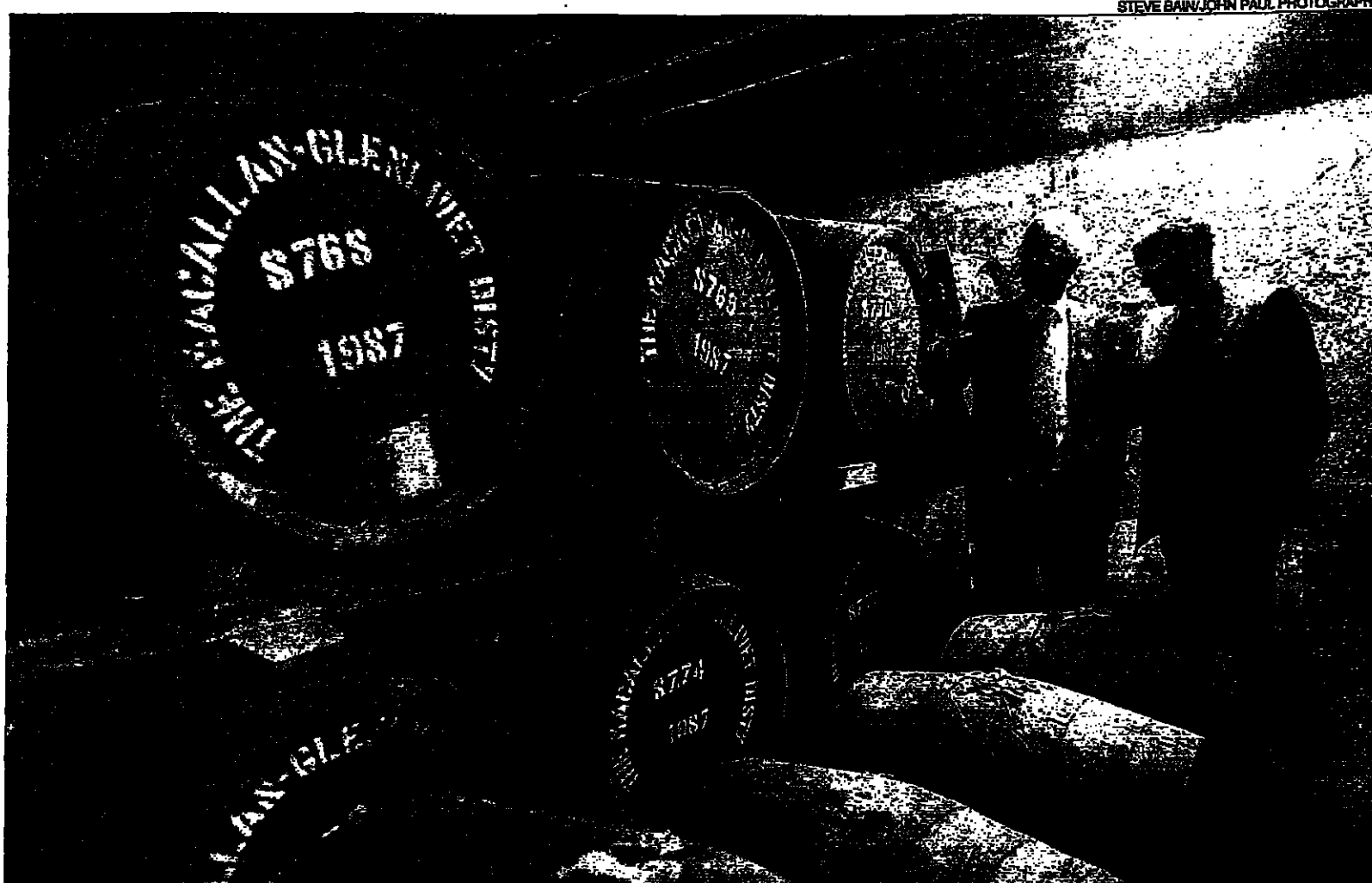
Joseph Stiglitz, chairman of Bill Clinton's council of economic advisers, told the meeting that people could no longer be guaranteed security of employment. Instead, he put forward the idea of "security of employability".

Gillian Shepherd, the Employment and Education Secretary, supported the US proposal. While she did not go as far as Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, in claiming that job insecurity is merely a "state of mind", she said that job insecurity was a perception which was not borne out by labour market statistics which showed that job tenure in Britain is much the same now as a decade ago.

The world economy is in the throes of a major economic upheaval which could bring growth for years to come, thanks to new developments in technology, Jean-Claude Paye, OECD Secretary-General, said in Lille yesterday. But he said that Europe's generous welfare systems would have to change to reduce the ranks of the unemployed.

Several countries, notably France and the United States, had asked the OECD to find out whether there was a case for trade sanctions against countries which exploited workers, for example by using children and prisoners.

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Allan Shiach, left, the chairman of Macallan-Glenlivet, and Willie Phillips, the managing director, at a maturation warehouse yesterday

Bank fights back over fund's \$50m black hole

By Jon Ashworth

INVESTIGATORS have uncovered a \$50 million black hole at the heart of an investment fund formerly monitored by Morgan Stanley, the investment bank. The discovery will fuel controversy over the bank's role as administrator and custodian of The Global Opportunity Fund, which collapsed a year ago, prompting investors to sue for "gross negligence".

Morgan Stanley denies negligence in certifying valuations which gave the impression that the \$120 million fund was doing

spectacularly well. Investors were unaware that an investment in Italian telecom warrants had sent values plunging.

Morgan Stanley claims it is the victim of fraud by a third party, who submitted false valuations which were accepted in good faith. However, documents seen by *The Times* show that the bank had conflicting figures in its books at least 18 months prior to the fund's collapse. In December 1994, the warrants were valued by Morgan Stanley in

Luxembourg at \$28.2 million. A separate valuation used by Morgan Stanley in London valued them at only \$13.3 million.

Morgan Stanley says Chinese walls would prevent London and Luxembourg from picking up on the discrepancy. The two offices fall under the overall control of Sir David Walker, chairman of Morgan Stanley Group (Europe).

The Global Opportunity Fund was valued by Morgan Stanley at \$76 million shortly before its collapse in February

1995. After the collapse, Morgan Stanley seized the shares in the fund, replacing directors with its own employees under Stuart Hendel, chairman.

After selling most of the remaining investments via its broking arm, Morgan Stanley could only find \$25 million of assets in the fund, leaving a black hole of nearly \$50 million. Morgan Stanley then paid \$23 million to itself in respect of loans advanced to investors. A further \$2 million was paid to Morgan Stanley in Luxembourg in escrow, and \$480,000 was set aside as a "fighting fund" aimed at warding off potential claims.

Investors began legal action against the bank in Luxembourg three months ago, alleging losses of up to \$70 million. Morgan Stanley responded by launching proceedings against the investors at the High Court in London, seeking to recover the balance of an estimated \$45 million in loans.

David Lee, of Lee & Allen, the firm leading the investigation, said: "From what I have seen so far, if anyone had known the true position of the fund, they would never have put any money into it." Morgan Stanley said claims were without merit and would be "vigorously" contested.

Macallan serves up profits increase

By Alasdair Murray

MACALLAN-GLENLIVET, the whisky producer, raised spirits in the troubled drinks sector by reporting a 6 per cent rise in profits to £7 million.

Shares in the company, which specialises in single malt whisky, closed up 10p at 161p. It said that sales of its Macallan brand had been strong and it was confident of continued advances this year. Overall turnover increased 9 per cent to £18.75 million. The total dividend was raised 15 per cent to 1.455p.

A final dividend of 0.985 (0.855) is payable on May 16. Macallan-Glenlivet said that a restructuring of the marketing department should enable the company to continue to develop its brands. It added that it was making substantial investments in stocks and cash in anticipation of further growth.

In January, Highland Distilleries, a rival whisky producer, bought a 26 per cent stake in the company for £47 million. Highland purchased the stake from Remy-Martin, the troubled French drinks company. At the time, Highland said that the stake would improve its brand portfolio while easing debt pressures on Remy-Martin in which it has a 10 per cent stake.

Aetna buys US Healthcare

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

AETNA Life & Casualty, a leading US insurance and financial services group, is buying US Healthcare in a \$9 billion deal that will create a new giant in the burgeoning American healthcare industry.

The move is part of a reorientation at Aetna away from general insurance and is subject to the successful sale of Travelers Group — an insurance subsidiary — for \$4 billion which is likely to go through in the next few days. Aetna has

targeted healthcare as a growth industry and has for several months been looking to expand its already substantial operation in that field.

With US Healthcare it will provide services to 23 million people — one in every 12 Americans — making it one of the largest providers in the country of medical services. Healthcare companies, which have emerged as a dominant force on the US medical scene over the past few years, con-

centrate on cutting the cost of medical care in order to keep a lid on soaring medical insurance bills.

US Healthcare has a reputation for being one of the best-managed companies in its field, with a higher profit margin than almost any of its competitors. Last year, it made \$380 million profit on revenues of \$3.6 billion compared with a \$474 million profit on revenues of \$13 billion for the whole of Aetna's operations.

Investment in Apricot boosts jobs

By Martin Barrow

JAPAN'S Mitsubishi Electric Corporation is to invest £131 million in Apricot Computers, its British subsidiary, creating more than 400 jobs in the UK and 300 in mainland Europe. Mitsubishi plans to increase output of personal computers at Apricot's Glenrothes facility near Edinburgh to about 500,000 units each year, doubling the workforce there to 600. Another 100 jobs will be created at the company's R&D centre in Birmingham.

Apricot is the 12th biggest seller of computers in the UK, accounting for about 3 per cent of market share. Around 60 per cent of the company's sales are in Britain, the majority to business users.

Mitsubishi plans to increase worldwide production 400 per cent by the year 2000 to a million computers a year.

Kleinwort gives Dresdner a lift

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent

DRESDNER BANK said yesterday that the £1 billion acquisition of Kleinwort Benson last year would have a positive effect on net commission income in 1996 and had made a major contribution to a 1.7 per cent rise in group net commission income last year.

Kleinwort had made a good start to 1996, according to Jürgen Sarrazin, Dresdner chief executive, as he unveiled the bank's 1995 results. Without the contribution from Kleinwort in the last quarter of 1995, net commission income would have been down, he said.

Dresdner's operating profits were up 22 per cent at DM1.99 billion, and net profits were DM1.2 billion, compared with the DM1 billion made in 1994.

The bank also said it was "confident" for the current

year and expected earnings to match last year's levels achieved.

It also expected improved earnings after reorganising its retail banking strategy and further optimising its corporate business strategy.

In own account trading, the bank expects an "appropriate" contribution to earnings.

In 1995, trading income was boosted by improved earnings in bond trading.

Income from foreign and precious metal trading was "clearly higher", while derivatives trading income remained steady at a high level, the group said.

Securities trading contributed DM164.5 million to the bank's own-account trading result of DM592.5 million, while foreign and precious metals accounted for DM110.2 million.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BaE to cut 250 jobs at Prestwick plant

BRITISH AEROSPACE is to cut 250 jobs at its Prestwick plant near Ayr. The redundancies will come among the 900 workers at its Jet Stream assembly line where production of the J41 aircraft is being reduced from 30 a year to 20 a year. Some of the job losses are caused by cessation of production of the larger J61 turbo-prop aircraft.

The contraction comes just three months after British Aerospace completed a marketing joint venture in regional aircraft with ATR, the Franco-Italian turbo prop maker. Under the new arrangements, the marketing of the aircraft produced by Jet Stream, and Avro, its sister company, is carried out from France by Aero International Region.

Dockyard sale

WORKERS were last night braced for the controversial sell-off of the Devonport and Rosyth Royal Dockyards. The Government is today expected to announce that Devonport would retain the multi-billion pound work to refit the Royal Navy's nuclear submarines. The privatisation will place a 51 per cent controlling share of Devonport in the hands of Brown & Root, the American engineering contractor. Labour voiced its deep concerns at the decision to give responsibility for refitting Britain's nuclear deterrent to an overseas company.

Midland loan offers

MIDLAND BANK joined the mortgage war yesterday by offering a 3 per cent first-year variable-rate discount for first-time buyers, home movers and remortgagers, and a loyalty bonus for Midland mortgage customers who are moving home. First-time buyers who take a variable-rate mortgage will be given a £750 cash payment in addition to the discount during the first year of the mortgage. The current variable rate for a mortgage between £50,000 and £99,999 is 7.4 per cent APR.

Standard deposits plan

STANDARD LIFE, Europe's largest mutual life assurance company, is to compete directly with building societies by introducing a deposit account service later this year for policyholders whose contracts are maturing. It will initially operate as a postal investment account although the company is considering a telephone-based operation. Standard Life will market the product and a host bank will carry out the underlying banking. The mutual confirmed it had been in discussions with Bank of Scotland concerning the issue.

House prices rise

BRITAIN'S biggest mortgage lender will today report a March increase of 1.2 per cent in the Halifax house price index. On an annually adjusted basis, the rate of house price inflation in the UK remains positive, at 1.7 per cent, compared with just 0.2 per cent in February. In spite of the more bullish outlook, the Halifax continues to forecast a rise of 2 per cent for the year, but will review that "if the pattern of recent months is sustained". New house prices remained volatile, with a rise of 1.6 per cent in March, after a 3.3 per cent fall in February.

Scotia raises £10m

SCOTIA HOLDINGS, the biopharmaceutical group, has raised £10.2 million through a placing of new shares with a prominent US institutional investor. The placing price of 62p is substantially higher than the 38p at which shares were issued in a £33 million open offer last summer. David Horrobin, Scotia's chief executive, said the unnamed US institution had made an unsolicited approach, and had taken a stake of about 1.5 per cent. Scotia will use the new money to accelerate the development of Foscan, a cancer drug.

P&P to acquire Myriad

P&P, the UK recruitment firm, has agreed to buy Myriad Group, a supplier of contract and permanent information technology personnel, for a maximum sum of £12.5 million. Myriad, which has six offices in Britain, posted an operating profit of £1.82 million, on the strength of sales of £28.97 million, for the year to November 30, 1995. At its last year-end, the company had net assets of £1.2 million and net cash of £54,000. On the stock exchange, the price of P&P shares fell 1p to 141p yesterday.

Nikkei at four-year high

TOKYO stocks ended at a four-year high yesterday, helped by the dollar's rise to the 107-yen level and expectations that fresh money would enter the market in the new fiscal year. The Nikkei average closed up 153.54 points, at 21,560.39, while the June futures contract advanced 180 points to 21,650. The Nikkei's close was its highest since 21,819.52, on February 10, 1992. Masanobu Kaizu, strategist at Nomura Research Institute, said the Nikkei might aim at 23,000 in its current rally, the third since the average hit an intra-day low of 14,295.90 on July 3, 1995.

Lower gas bills likely

CONSUMERS are likely to benefit from price cuts of about 15 per cent soon after the liberalisation of the domestic gas market but the low prices will not last, according to MarketLine International, the market research company. Domestic gas bill reductions will not be sustainable in the long term, with gas bills rising after three to four years. As the surplus of gas is reduced by the UK interconnector — a pipeline siphoning gas to the Continent — prices will increase, because high European prices will push up UK prices.

Correction

MARKS & SPENCER is investigating opportunities offered by the retail market in Australia as part of a long-term strategy to evaluate new markets but the company's immediate development focus is in continental Europe and the Far East (March 27).



BET is a multinational support services group providing specialist outsourcing to industrial, commercial and public sector customers

Dividend forecast update

FREEPHONE 0800 771177

BET is subject to a bid from Rentokil. Sir Christopher Harding, Chairman of BET, can be heard on the above freephone number with an updated message for shareholders.

The directors of BET Public Limited Company accept responsibility for the information contained in this presentation. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the directors of BET Public Limited Company, the information contained in this presentation is true and correct and does not contain any false or misleading information.

Liquidity shortage in gas market

By Carl Mortished

A SUDDEN spike in the price of gas has exposed a severe shortage of liquidity in the new gas market set up to deal with free price competition.

The flexibility market, which is operated by TransCo, the British Gas subsidiary, and was set up to ensure sufficient gas remained in the system, almost came to grief in March when TransCo was unable to secure sufficient supplies from shippers.

The liquidity crisis forced the pipeline operator to buy gas from British Gas Trading, a subsidiary, at vastly inflated prices, 148p per therm compared with average spot prices of 10p per therm.

The cost of the exercise has exceeded the £10 million budget agreed by the parties to the Network Code. A crisis meeting was convened at the request of Ofgas, whose director general is Clare Spottiswoode, to discuss the market's illiquidity and accu-



Spottiswoode: meeting

sations by certain parties of gaming. According to Wood Mackenzie, the oil consultants, the problem emerged because gas shippers were unprepared. "The shippers were not geared up to cope with the new flexibility market. You need 24 hour cover, seven days a week." On

Saturday, March 9, a cold snap left TransCo with insufficient supplies to meet anticipated demand and it called for gas using the AT system, a computer link-up between the shippers and the pipeline operator. However, the only offer was from British Gas Trading's Rough field, a storage facility, at 73p per therm. Two days later TransCo sought bids at 2am to balance the system and was required to buy high-cost liquefied natural gas, again from British Gas Trading, at 148p per therm. According to Wood Mackenzie the bids were worth several million pounds.

At the March meeting, BG Trading agreed to retrospectively cap its gains from the sales to the flexibility market at a price of 35p per therm. A spokesman from BGT said "The market was in danger of being suspended."

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.04	1.88
Austria S	18.30	15.48
Belgium F	46.45	45.15
Canada \$	2.178	2.018
Denmark D	0.792	0.885
France F	9.34	8.54
Finland Mk	7.85	7.00
Germany D	8.11	7.48
Greece Dr	2.41	2.20
Hong Kong S	389.00	364.00
Ireland P	12.44	11.44
Italy Lit	1.02	0.94
Japan Yen	5.1400	4.4900
Netherlands Gld	2602.00	2347.00
New Zealand \$	2.28	2.10
Norway Kr	0.550	0.535
Portugal Esc	204.50	226.00
Spain Ptas	167.00	184.00
Sweden Kr	10.83	10.03
Switzerland S	1.36	1.27
Turkey Lira	11.070	10.470
USA \$	1.822	1.492

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□ Technical hitch could mar British Energy debut □ Is Rentokil's first step far enough? □ The cost of Gummer's wet proposals

Fall-out from nuclear flotation

ONE problem solved, and another rears its head for the snake-oil salesman charged by the Government with packaging the two big privatisations and selling them to the public this year. Railtrack has a form of words from the Labour Party that will allow it to be sold, and British Energy, the nuclear generator, has forced a climbdown over the debt to be included in the sale.

Now comes concern about the words that may have to be included in the prospectus for the later on the fascinating but deeply technical matter of on-load refuelling at its advanced gas cooled reactors (AGRs). This, put simply, involves refuelling the plant while it is still running.

The process has worked without a hitch so far, and continues to work at two AGRs, at Hunterston and Hinkley. But an incident at Heysham 2 reactor has forced the practice to be abandoned both there and at the twin Torness plant in Scotland.

It must be emphasised, before most of the inhabitants of the surrounding countryside plan extended holidays, that the problem has no implications for safety. The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, the government watchdog on these matters, has no concerns. But if the technical hitch, the jamming of one fuel rod during insertion at Hey-

sham, cannot be resolved over the next six weeks or so — and insiders at British Energy reckon the odds about 50/50 — mention will have to be included in the prospectus of the difficulties.

The implications of this are twofold. First, the City generally claims to be deeply nervous about the nuclear flotation, and any technical hitches that are only dimly understood will only increase those nerves, so forcing the price down. Second, the flotation is being sold on the back of some research from EZW, the Government's financial adviser, which has already been called into question by sources at the company itself as being too optimistic — and that research assumes on-load fuelling at all British Nuclear's AGRs.

There are two things that can go wrong at British Nuclear, safety considerations excepting. The company is heavily dependent on the price of electricity in the "pool" or free market. Most forecasts, and many contracts currently being signed, suggest that price in the medium term is in slow decline. The cost at which British Energy can generate,

currently comfortably below the pool price, will have to fall in parallel to maintain current levels of profitability.

The second factor is the level of capacity at which the stations operate, the average plant load factor. Running at just short of 70 per cent in the last financial year, this is forecast to rise to well above 80 per cent by EZW, but this on the back of that assumption about on-load fuelling. This last is expected to add five percentage points to plant load, the research says. Again according to EZW, each 1 per cent reduction would take £40 million off British Energy's value.

BET-ting enough will be enough

THE STYLISED little pavane that is a City takeover requires that the bidder's first step is never its last, because the market expects the first offer to be pitched too low.

It comes about occasionally, perhaps through an especially inept defence or some unexpected problems flushed out at



the target company, that this first step is enough. The £1.9 billion bid from Rentokil for BET may be one such case, after a deeply underwhelming last throw of the dice from BET and despite the curious row that has blown up over NatWest's research.

The dividend forecast that is supposed to save BET failed to move the shares much yesterday. According to the market, therefore, the game should be over and BET dead in the water, the value of Rentokil's first terms now standing just a couple of pence below the share price.

The dividend forecast was unimpressive because it was not greatly out of kilter with what the market had been expecting as BET's response to the bid. It also

covers a period, the financial year just begun, that started on the day that the prediction was made, which smacks of desperation. When that dividend comes to be confirmed, should BET stay independent, rather more than a year's trading will have ensued, and it is hard to see what firm assumptions can be made at this stage about such trading.

Clive Thompson, Rentokil's chief executive, has pitched the bid terms carefully, which is as well for him. His company's explosive growth in recent years has required a series of cheap acquisitions that have fed immediately into profits via enhanced margins. The chances must be growing that BET will provide another, if the bid is kept at this level. He certainly cannot be seen to overplay.

As to NatWest's role, the research complained of should certainly have contained some indication of the large sum the broker can expect to earn from the bid, which is a good working definition of an aligned party. The trouble is, and this has been a feature of many huge share issues, the jam is spread so

widely around these days that the supply of non-aligned parties to provide impartial advice is strictly limited.

Mild flooding, little damage

THE few pence off water company shares by the close of play yesterday, in response to what looks like a last desperate fling to gain a few votes out of the whole utilities mess, looks like the normal reaction by the stock market to any unexpected turn of events. There is little in the proposals to send investors running for cover.

Consider the uncertainties. The market largely expects Labour to win the next election, in which case the proposals are an irrelevance. If Labour wins, tougher regulation for all utilities, water including, should already be built into share prices.

The proposals are limited to large users, but a rolling programme of competition to be introduced gradually throughout the market, right down to the domestic user, is promised.

Much the same is already under way in the gas and electricity industries, the former dogged with delays and the latter probably doomed to suffer the same.

Now consider just one of the inconsistencies. If a company loses customers and as a result profits, can it cut back on the necessary capital spending, so requiring its remaining customers to suffer in terms of water quality and availability? Or should the regulator's "K" factors that govern prices be adjusted, so again penalising customers by larger bills?

The main effect of these proposals will be on possible takeovers in the sector, and even this will be limited. If more competition means profits will be less predictable, this only raises the importance of the cost savings available from mergers.

Another one behind

IT IS all very well switching from secure employment for all to a reliance that if one unsafe job folds there will be another along in a minute, which is the Government line at the G7 summit. But jobs are not like buses; what works in America, an economy capable of generating as many as 700,000 new vacancies a month, may not work in these small isles, where jobs and buses are rather less frequent.

Burmah Castrol profits driven by Asian advance

By CARL MORTISHED

EMERGING markets in Asia are driving profits forward at Burmah Castrol, the lubricants and chemicals group, but the company sees weak demand from consumers in Europe and North America.

Burmah, which owns Castrol GTX, scored a 20 per cent gain in volumes across Asia, helping to raise profits in its lubricants division by 13 per cent, to £204 million, while recovery in chemicals boosted profits by 26 per cent to £62 million. At the pre-tax level, profits grew 15 per cent, to £253 million, and Burmah is paying a final dividend of

11.25p. The foreign income dividend is 14p, while the total cash dividend rises 11.5 per cent to 36.25p.

Burmah continues to invest heavily in developing its brand, spending £90 million on promoting Castrol last year. A regional headquarters has been established in Hong Kong to drive growth in a region that contributed more than a third of the profits from lubricants.

Jonathan Fry, chief executive, said the company is targeting 10 to 15 per cent of the market in China, where it is investing in a lubricants

blending plant. "Volumes in Asia should overtake Europe in 1997," he predicted.

Castrol profits grew 17 per cent in Europe despite flat volumes and weak consumer demand. Mr Fry said that gains came from strong industrial markets and trading up by consumers from standard to synthetic lubricants, which are sold at higher margins. Trading up had contributed a quarter of the lubricants profit gain, he said.

Mr Fry was dismissive of the threat to its market position in Europe from the BP/Mobil joint venture in

fuels and lubricants, suggesting it would be "a difficult thing to execute".

Profits from lubricants in the United States were up 9 per cent to £74 million due to growth in the industrial market. Castrol suffered a £9 million loss in Brazil. Burmah's chemicals business suffered a slowdown in the second half.

Gearing fell to 20 per cent at the year-end and is expected to fall further after receipt of £180 million from the sale of Burmah's fuels businesses.

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Ashanti to buy for £65m

By PAUL DURMAN

ASHANTI Goldfields, the Ghanaian company in which Lonrho owns a large stake, has provisionally agreed a £65 million deal that will extend its gold interests in Ghana.

Ashanti is planning to acquire International Gold Resources Corporation, a Canadian company that has a 45 per cent stake in the proposed Bibiani mine in Ghana. Bibiani is only an hour or so away from Obuasi, the rich Ashanti mine that last year produced more than 900,000 ounces of gold.

Special payout bonanza for Ulster TV investors

By PAUL DURMAN

ULSTER Television is returning £10.5 million to its shareholders through the payment of a special dividend.

Desmond Smyth, the regional broadcaster's managing director, said the payment follows Ulster's decision last year not to apply for the cable television licence for Northern Ireland.

He said that this had made the company's future investment requirements much clearer. Although Ulster is backing TV3, the proposed new channel for the Irish Republic, it is confident it can fund this project from existing resources.

The company had accumu-

lated net cash of £20.5 million by the end of last year.

The £1 a share special dividend will be paid on July 1.

The consequent reduction in investment income, and the expectation of increased competition in the television industry, has prompted Ulster to hold its final dividend at 12.5p a share. This makes a total of 22.5p, up from 20p last year.

Ulster was reporting pre-tax profits for 1995 of £8.2 million, up from £7.5 million last year. Its revenues rose from £31.4 million to £34.2 million, while operating costs climbed by £2.2 million to £27.8 million.

Ulster TV, which claims the highest audience share of any

UK broadcaster, is regarded as an attractive takeover prospect in the light of the proposed relaxation of the media ownership rules. Its share price has more than doubled over the last year, yesterday rising by a further 85p to 1380p.

Mr Smyth insisted: "Our independence is a very important element of our regional identity. Increased size does not necessarily mean more competitive."

"The important thing is the ability to compete with the new channels, particularly with satellite."

Tempos, page 28

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De Savary on buying spree

ENTREPRENEUR Peter de Savary is adding to his grand collection of multi-million pound properties before he floats the latest project, the Carnegie Club, on the stock market next year. The former owner of Land's End and John O'Groats is about to sign up, for Carnegie, a £5 million property in the heart of the English countryside and another in the Caribbean. He also has his eye on an exclusive pad on the East Coast of America. This time last year, de Savary opened the exclusive Carnegie Club at Skibo Castle in Scotland, and will open the London outpost of the Carnegie Club at the end of this month. Annual membership of the Carnegie Club costs £2,000 a year. De Savary booms: "We've had a lot of interest from members. But we don't know where we'll float it."



De Savary: float plans BOSSY Sir Christopher Bland was busy by 6.30 am yesterday, his first day as chairman at the BBC. Standing on the gallery at Broadcasting House, the self-made millionaire and sometime TV regulator, had his stern eye fixed on the April foolery going on at Radio Five Live's breakfast programme.

Oiling wheels

BURMAH CASTROL takes emerging markets so seriously that it spent more than £1 million flying 150 top managers to Peking to provide an appropriate backdrop for its annual conference. They spent five days at the China World Hotel and raced one another aboard dragon boats. One manager was sent home after a heart attack. Jonathan Fry, chief executive, said: "If you are committed to growth markets, you don't have your conference in Zurich."

Splashing out

CLIVEDEN is taking no risks for its stock market flotation today. The company has invited an expert in such watery matters swimming instructor Pierre Grunberg, to give lessons at its luxury hotel in Berkshire. The 64-year-old Adonis, who taught Charlie Chaplin the breast stroke and persuaded Shirley Bassey to get her hair wet, will be teaching at the hotel where Christine Keeler paddled with John Profumo. Grunberg, who encourages his pupils to put their head in a salad bowl of water, is donating his fees to the National Trust.

Purple daze

BODY SHOP is apologising to its environmentally friendly customers who turned purple after spending hours fiddling with a prize-winning puzzle to celebrate its birthday. Due to an error in its make-up, the wordsearch is impossible to complete.

BMW launched a new product yesterday. Calls flooded in on April Fool's Day to find out more about its insect deflector screen that enables cars to drive through swarms of insects at up to 95 mph unscathed. "Insects colliding with the windscreen simply bounce off, leaving the surface unmarked."

MORAG PRESTON

Pensions provision when marriage turns to divorce

Hardship caused
by legal delays
when couples split
must be reduced,
Robert Miller says

Marriage is an expensive business, but divorce can be even more so. Legal fees traditionally make up the bulk of the costs for both sides. But the tide may be turning against those advisers who have hitherto regarded such matrimonial work as simply bread and butter fee income. Lawyers are under greater pressure than ever before to prove their mettle and secure better financial settlements for women, including access to their husband's future pension rights. Unfortunately, none of the parties involved, from divorcing couples, judges and lawyers to pension fund administrators, expects much practical enlightenment to come from the Family Law Bill that was due to be debated in the Commons today but instead will be delayed until after the Easter recess.

In the meantime, those about to embark on divorce proceedings, and particularly women, are receiving conflicting advice. On the one hand, Fairshares, the campaign group led by Dawn Barnett and Sallie Quinn, advises waiting until July. Any new petition presented after then will come under the new regulations laid down in the Pensions Act 1995. These allow judges to formally " earmark " future pension rights for a woman out of her husband's pension, but only after he retires. Should he die before retirement then the wife may lose her rights to any payouts, although courts will have the necessary powers to make a ruling on death-in-service benefits and lump sums payable to the scheme member.

Penny Webster, a partner of Bacon & Woodrow, the firm of consulting actuaries, argues that a skilful lawyer might usefully secure a " clean break " settlement, even now, by negotiating, where applicable, for a husband to give his wife the house, with the mortgage fully paid up, and keep his pension intact. Under the old rule of thumb, husbands very often signed over just half a share in the house and kept all their pension entitlements.

The debate on pension rights for women in divorce cases has a long and troubled history. For many years there has been a growing recognition that husbands may quite rightly be charged with paying maintenance for their children and the support of their mother while she has charge of the children. But what about later on? An increasing number of divorced women are facing an old age with little income outside of what the State may provide while the former husbands can often be found enjoying the fruits of an index-linked pension as well as those of their partners.

Fighting ferociously in one corner is Baroness Hollis of Heigham, Labour's Social Security spokeswoman in the Lords, who this year tabled a successful amendment to the Family Law Bill requiring that pensions be divided upon divorce. Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, has made clear the Government's opposition to pension-splitting and the Department of Social Security produced figures showing that the immediate introduction of such a measure could cost as much as £600 million, compared with £200 million, by the year 2037. Nevertheless, the Government has now signalled an end to its opposition to the concept of " clean break " pension splits but has called for a



Sallie Quinn says the Government must give a date for pensions splitting

Green Paper to be presented to Parliament by the summer.

Campaigners such as Fairshares believe that after such a long discussion period not enough has been done to protect divorced women and their rights to a financially secure future. Ms Quinn says: " The Government has reneged on its promise to introduce ' earmarking ' from April 6, delaying it instead to petitions started after July. What we don't want is a repeat of these delaying tactics used in the Family Law Bill. The Government must give an up-front

commencement date for pensions splitting and this time stick to it. Logically, that date should be when the Bill gets Royal Assent and becomes a statute."

In Parliament last week, Roger Freeman, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, defended the Government's stand. He told MPs: " In last year's Pensions Act, we clarified the court's existing duty to take pensions into account in financial settlements, which had not always been recognised in practice. The courts already have the power to order maintenance payments

to the ex-spouse, payable from the former partner's income including pensions. But the Pensions Act extended that power to allow the courts to order a pension scheme to pay the relevant sum from the scheme member's pension, including any lump sums payable, directly to the ex-spouse, when the pension comes into payment."

He added: " I might take the opportunity to clear up any confusion on this matter — the courts will not be constrained to order a 50/50 allocation, they will have the flexibility to order whatever allocation or none as seems appropriate. These provisions will take effect from July this year. " The minister also outlined the " technical complexities " of pension splitting, such as the effect it would have on occupational pension schemes by adding extra layers of responsibility on the scheme's trustees and managers. He said that the implications on public spending had to be considered and the position of state earnings related pension schemes and the interaction with guaranteed minimum pensions must also be safeguarded. Finally, Mr Freeman said that on a practical level " we have identified some 30 Acts of Parliament which may need changing ".

One of the bodies most closely concerned with pensions and divorce reform seems less troubled than does the Government. The National Association of Pension Funds, whose members look after £350 billion of pension assets, says it sees no problem with a " clean break " settlement on divorce. However, the association insists that the costs of working out what should be separated out and passed on to a wife who can then set up her own personal pension are borne by the couple concerned and not the pension scheme.

In terms of implications on legal costs to the couple involved in the divorce, Bill Birmingham, the NAF's manager of benefits services, argues that these should not be greatly increased. He says that in maybe 90 per cent of cases of the 160,000 divorce cases in England and Wales a financial agreement can be worked out between the parties involved before coming to court, in which case the judge would simply rubber stamp the deal.

Ron Spill, pensions expert at Legal & General, says: " The most unfortunate aspect to the proposed reforms is that we in the industry are saddled with an unnecessarily complex system for two years. What is really needed now is a concerted effort to make clean break pensions available as an option as soon as possible."

A Pensions in Divorce Report to be published today will highlight the difficult road ahead in achieving a fair deal for divorced women. Dennis Williams, managing director of Seymour Smith, which commissioned the report and represents lawyers, pensions experts and actuaries, says: " Many people are quite rightly confused about the complex implications of the pensions-splitting issue. ... Following last week's second reading of the Family Law Bill and the speculation that spouses will have to wait until 1998 to be able to split their ex-partner's pension, we have grave concerns about the effect such a deal would have on individual's facing divorce over the next couple of years."

More tellingly, Mr Williams concludes: " The longer the delay becomes, the higher the probability that assets can be dissipated. There is also the added problem of uncertainty and stress that such a delay will inevitably create."

With so much evidence available from a wide and diverse body of opinion as to the hardship caused by legislative delays there must surely be a moral obligation on the Government to sort this mess out. And to do it soon.



Opposing views: Roger Freeman, left, and Baroness Hollis of Heigham



Beefing up the UK's organic farming sector

The Government and the farming industry ought to force themselves to observe a two-minute silence before they start crowing about the week-end rush to buy half-price beef. Of course, there are a lot of price-conscious pragmatists quite properly exercising their choice to take a risk. But there are many others who won't take the risk and are switching to other meats or vegetables. There are others who don't believe beef is much of a risk, but find intensive farming methods inherently distasteful and are going organic.

Forcing cows to turn cannibals because they get fatter faster and more cheaply is anathema to many. Media coverage of the beef scare has educated and shocked thousands. It is a sign that there may be a permanent change in attitude that it is not just organic beef that has seen an explosion of demand.

Peter Segger, of Organic Farm Foods, the largest supplier of organic fruit and vegetables to supermarket chains, has seen demand rise 40 per cent in a week. Is there now an opportunity for a permanent switch to organic products and can we rely on Government to take a lead?

In Britain, organic food is regarded as a niche product. But that is only because there isn't enough of it

that keep fewer animals per field and do not use mineral nitrogenous fertilizer. Germany has such strict rules relating to pesticide residues in baby food that Hipp, an organic company, has more than half of the German baby food market. Britain asks scientists (specious public posturing, a cynic would say) whether beef is more dangerous to children than adults, takes no for an answer, and says it won't do anything to restore consumer confidence.

But if the Government is properly interested in the health of the nation we are entitled to ask why it shouldn't switch subsidies from intensive to organic farmers or enforce stricter regulations. Isn't it absurd that labelling of animal feed is apparently so inadequate that farmers have been claiming that they didn't know that it contained bits of cattle? Or that farmers didn't think to ask?

The challenge of switching from intensive to organic farming is perfect for the Government's (and Labour's) current yen for public/private partnerships.

Switching to organic farming is not difficult in many cases but does take time: an absolute minimum of two years. The private sector and the Government can help during this transition. There is no shortage of imaginative schemes on the Continent. In Denmark, 20 per cent of all milk consumed is organic, but the proportion would be a lot higher if there were more organic farms. The demand is there. So the large dairies, backed by the Government, are helping farms in the transition to organic farming by buying semi-organic milk, selling it as conventional milk but paying organic prices.

In Britain, organic food has long been regarded as a niche market for the fussy and affluent middle classes. Actually, it is a niche product only because there isn't enough of it. If there were more organic farms, the produce would be better marketed, more people would choose to eat it and prices would fall.

Health aside, if the Government believes in consumer choice, it should act to develop a substantial organic farming sector.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Distortions and the measuring of inflation

From Mr Adrian Cusker
Sir, The biggest obstacle to the correction of the chronic deficiency of demand from which the British economy has suffered ever since we joined the exchange-rate mechanism is currently the Government's 2.5 per cent inflation target. Since it would be impossible publicly to relax the target without an adverse reaction from the Bank of England and the bond markets, the only solution would appear to be a reformulation of the way in which inflation is measured.

There is an excellent case for this: at the moment, price increases such as higher council taxes, increases in prescription charges, higher water rates in response to

tougher European Union regulations, and the higher prices for cars, computers etc because of new improved features, are all counted as inflation.

They are, of course, no such thing — they represent, respectively, a reorganisation of the tax burden, or a perfectly proper payment demanded for a higher quality product.

With these distortions artificially boosting the measured inflation rate, it is, of course, necessary to keep the rest of the economy on an excessively tight rein by way of compensation, hence the chronic demand deficiency and its accompanying unemployment.

By discreetly adjusting the

way inflation is measured, the distortions could be eliminated, inflation would measure what it should be measuring — the changes in the true cost of making things — and the improved figures should make it possible to expand demand and put to the test the impact of supply-side improvements on the natural rate of unemployment and on the productive capacity of the economy, in the kind of way that Janet Bush argued for in her article (March 7).

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN COSKER
(Head of Economics),
The Knights Templar School,
Park Street,
Baldock,
Hertfordshire.

Forum proposed on British Gas's take or pay contracts

From V. Ray Harlow
Sir, Undue emphasis has been made by Mr Giordano that British Gas's take or pay contracts are " a legacy of the monopoly era " when BG was legally obligated to purchase supplies to match the nation's demands.

He cannot deny that BG's monopoly had been broken when he became chairman in 1993. Large in-roads had already been made into BG's ready-made industrial market share of the industrial market by that time. If pressed, he would also have to concede that BG was still purchasing life of field take or pay contracts right

up until the first quarter of 1994, long after the company's monopoly had been lifted. Furthermore, BG's call for an inquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission has a touch of irony, for the only monopoly to have been emasculated in this affair was BG and not the oil companies in the North Sea that had to compete with each other to secure supply agreements with BG. While an MMC

inquiry is unlikely to happen, some type of forum surely needs to be established so that misleading and inaccurate statements about the whole situation can be removed from the decision-making process. Yours sincerely,
V. RAY HARLOW
(Chairman/Managing Director)
Sun Oil Britain,
23 Sheen Road,
Richmond, Surrey.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112

Lloyd's unfair to names who paid

From Mr T. R. Bruce
Sir, I want to amplify your headline " Responses to Lloyd's R&R offer to names " (March 14). We are monitoring the attitudes of our names on this subject.

Your readers may be interested to know that we have had contact with a significant proportion of the names for whom we act as members' agent.

Of these, 79.25 per cent intend to accept R&R [the reconstruction and renewal plan] on the basis of the indicative information they have received. This includes names who have resigned where three out of four are in favour. The " don't knows " account for 12.5 per cent with the definite " no's " running at 8 per cent currently.

Perhaps I should add that there is a perceptible undercurrent that the names who have continued to trade forward and paid their losses silently and honourably have not been fairly treated in the apportionment of available funds. This is an aspect Lloyd's may need to consider should it be successful in increasing the £2.8 billion. Yours faithfully,
T. R. BRUCE,
Murray Lawrence Members Agency Ltd,
Lloyd's Underwriting Agents,
1 Whittington Avenue,
EC3.

COMPAGNIE FINANCIERE OTTOMANE SA

The board of COMPAGNIE FINANCIERE OTTOMANE wishes to announce that agreement has been reached with the GARANTI BANKASI GROUP of Turkey for the sale of its 99.9% interest in its affiliate, OSMANLI BANKASI AS.

OSMANLI BANKASI is the largest foreign-owned bank in Turkey and the oldest banking business in that country, founded in 1863. It has 61 branches and a staff of 1,400.

Following the decision by COMPAGNIE FINANCIERE OTTOMANE in July 1995 not to proceed with the flotation on the Istanbul stock market of part of the capital of OSMANLI BANKASI AS, a number of groups approached COMPAGNIE FINANCIERE OTTOMANE with a view to acquiring a participation in the capital of its Turkish subsidiary. Negotiations have now been concluded with GARANTI BANKASI GROUP on the basis of a purchase price of US\$ 245 million for the entire share capital of COMPAGNIE OTTOMANE D'INVESTISSEMENTS BV, a Dutch holding company which holds 99.9% of the share capital of OSMANLI BANKASI AS. As at 31 December 1995, the value of the participation in OSMANLI BANKASI AS as reflected in the consolidated balance sheet of COMPAGNIE FINANCIERE OTTOMANE was FRF 525 million (US\$ 105 million).

The sale is subject to a number of conditions including the necessary regulatory approval and the usual due diligence procedure. Completion of the sale is expected to take place by late June 1996.

The board of COMPAGNIE FINANCIERE OTTOMANE, which has been advised by BANQUE PARIBAS, considers that the proposed transaction presents a good opportunity to enhance shareholder value.

COMPAGNIE FINANCIERE OTTOMANE is a Luxembourg holding company, whose shares are listed on the stock exchanges of London, Luxembourg and Paris. It is a member of the PARIBAS GROUP, which owns 49.9% of its share capital and voting rights.

For more information, please contact:

Mr George Warren in London
Mr Pierre-Edouard Noyelle in Paris

Tel: 0171 626 5932
Tel: (33 1) 42 98 05 54

1 April 1996

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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BRIEFINGS

New rules for the Loan Guarantee Scheme, the government scheme to help small businesses to raise finance, come into force in September. Key changes mean that service companies with an annual turnover of up to £1.5 million can now apply. The shareholding of other investors has been increased to 20 per cent and the loan term has been extended from seven to ten years. Call 0171-215 5000.

Companies that are seeking trading partners in the US and Canada now qualify for up to half the cost of consultants, with a £6,000 limit. To carry out searches and implement plans. The help is offered under the Strategic Alliance Programme, part of the DTI's North America Now campaign. Call 0171-215 8656.

Britain's small businesses want a referendum on Europe, according to a survey by the Federation of Small Businesses. Delegates to the FSB's annual conference last weekend also heard Tony Blair, the Labour leader, propose more action on late payments, including exempting small businesses from paying interest on unpaid bills. He announced a commitment to prompt payment by Labour local authorities.

A Green Audit Kit to help small tourism businesses to "green" their companies and save money has been produced by the Rural Development Commission. It has been successfully tested by businesses in Devon. The kit costs £10 and is available from all regional tourist boards in England.

Secret recipe for success

Brian Collett on how one woman used her culinary expertise to cook up a thriving Indian food company

Geeta Samtani, whose Indian chutneys and pickles are sold in supermarkets throughout Britain, got the cooking habit when her husband needed to entertain at home. Mrs Samtani comes from an affluent Bombay family who had a cook of their own. She had no kitchen duties, but, at an early age, she learnt the chutney and pickle recipes handed down from generation to generation.

After gaining degrees in law and economics, she spent her early married life in Trinidad, where the entertaining began. She recalls: "I thought to myself, 'If I can get a law degree, I can damn well cook'. Every time my husband entertained, I tried to come up with something new."

Mrs Samtani moved to London with her family in 1978 and continued making chutneys and pickles — but for charity. She went commercial in 1991, aged 50, first selling her jars of chutney and pickle with handwritten labels to London delicatessens.

She invested in artist-produced labels and then exhibited at a BBC Good Food Show in Birmingham, where she had to turn down a surprise order from a Sainsbury representative because it was too large.



Hot stuff: Geeta Samtani samples one of the chutneys that could make Geeta's Foods a household name

However, it meant that her company, Geeta's Foods, had arrived, and she eventually started supplying Sainsbury in 1992. The same year, Mrs Samtani boosted production by setting up her own factory in India.

Mrs Samtani, who runs the operation from home, in St John's Wood, London, with her daughter Ashwina, attributes its success partly to the growing popularity of Indian food, but mostly to product quality. She now supplies Claridge's and other

London hotels, upmarket Indian restaurants, many delicatessens and the Sainsbury supermarket chains.

Geeta's Foods offers four chutneys and three pickles, and, by April, will have added a Balti Kashmiri curry paste and a curry spice mixture. In her search for new flavours, Mrs Samtani visits India several times a year. When she concocts a flavour she tries it out at home on family and friends. Mrs Samtani started the

business with private funds. Around one million jars of chutneys and pickles are produced each year and her last annual turnover was £250,000, which she hopes to double in the current trading year.

She also hopes to pass on her culinary skills, though not her closely guarded recipes, in a book, *A Taste of Kashmir* will be published in the summer. □ Geeta's Foods is on 0171-722 7545.

Small businesses face lean spell in beef crisis

By CLARE STEWART

THE crisis over BSE could cost the jobs up to 200,000 people, including many working in small businesses from farms to food retailing. While this estimate may yet prove excessive, much depends on government action and how well consumer confidence recovers.

The uncertainty is already hitting a wide range of businesses. Crantock Bakery in Cornwall, maker of Cornish pasties, says that the company's export plans have been hit hard by the BSE crisis.

Tess Bradshaw, who runs the company with her brother Frank, said: "We had planned to build another factory to meet demand from Europe, and we would have taken on 20 more people. We have cancelled the plans because we can't afford to take the risk."

Stephen Alambritis, spokesman for the Federation of Small Businesses, said: "We are telling our members to hold firm and be patient. We are also hoping that banks will be tolerant if businesses suddenly find that their income is frozen."

Barclays Bank says that it has asked all local managers "to take a sympathetic wait-and-see approach", while Lloyds is advising customers "to talk to their bank managers as soon as possible so that they are aware of the problems".

Brian Montgomery, senior executive of NatWest's agricultural

office, said: "We have said to the branch network that we must be totally supportive of our beef-farming and other customers until the situation becomes clear."

The Department of Trade and Industry's Small Firms Service is not offering any specialist help to beleaguered businesses, but is instead directing queries to the Ministry of Agriculture, which has a Helpline service on 0645 335577, with calls charged at local rates.

One type of business that has suddenly found a new market is organic farming. The Soil Association, which represents organic producers, says that it has had numerous calls from food companies and retailers looking to locate organic suppliers. The association has 500 members and can be contacted on 0117 929 0661.



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Biggest bank in world starts trading in Japan

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BANK of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, the world's largest bank with assets of 77.5 trillion yen (£475 billion), started trading in Japan yesterday.

The new bank, created by the merger of Bank of Tokyo and Mitsubishi Bank, said it planned to act as a stabilising force in Japan's banking system and lead reform of lending practices in the industry.

Tsunao Wakai, chairman of Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd, said his bank would use its position to help to ensure that the excesses of Japan's late 1980s "bubble economy", which left the banks with huge debts from over-aggressive property lending, were not repeated.

Mr Wakai said: "The banking industry must change its behaviour, such as lending heavily to a single sector or doing things just because other members of the industry have done them. We must establish procedures that will prevent a recurrence of what happened in the bubble economy."

The move is seen as the start of widespread consolidation in the Japanese financial sector as other Japanese banks are still suffering from the effects of the bad debt problems.

Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi unites Mitsubishi's powerful domestic network and Bank of Tokyo's strong international operations.

The bank creates a domestic powerhouse, being relatively unscathed by the collapse of Japanese property prices in the early 1990s and with both banks believed to be close to bringing their bad-debt problems under control.

Standard & Poor's, the credit rating agency, was less positive on the new banking giant. It gave Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi a single A plus rating, its fifth highest, with a negative outlook. Before the merger, both were separately rated single A plus.

The new bank said it would start operations with about 21,000 employees, 366 domestic branches including headquarters and other outlets, and 83 overseas branches and representative offices.

Although the bank would not be drawn on specific targets, one of the keys to boosting profitability is expected to be staff reductions and the closure of redundant operations. Last month, bank officials said that they would consider cutting 2,000 jobs over three years.



Tellers at the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi operate a counter in the head office on the first day of trading yesterday

Wells Fargo merger completed

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

A DRIVE for efficiency in a slow-growth business and the desire to be in the best position to invest in new technology are the spur behind the new wave of bank mergers in America.

Yesterday Wells Fargo & Co completed its merger with First Interstate Bancorp, creating a California-based colossus with \$108 billion in assets. On Sunday, Chase Manhattan Corp merged into Chemical Banking Corp, creating the nation's largest bank in terms of assets.

Citicorp, which has been the biggest bank with \$257 billion in assets, will fall

to second place, with the "new" Chase Manhattan having assets of \$305 billion.

Chemical is taking Chase's name and stock symbol after the merger is completed. There was no fanfare to herald the merger, although a new sign was in place yesterday in the Chemical headquarters on Park Avenue. The actual merger of the retail banking businesses will take some months to complete.

Although banks have been focusing on cost-savings in their meetings with Wall Street analysts, the mergers are not without a human cost. Chemical and Chase

had 75,000 employees before the merger and will eventually be down to 63,000. Analysts estimate that 9,000 jobs are likely to be lost in the Wells Fargo merger with First Interstate. Total employment at the two banks before the merger was 47,000.

Raphael Soifer, analyst at Brown Brothers Harriman, said banks seeking to merge were not in a "survival situation" but were seeking to build more competitive organisations. "Most bank mergers continue to be driven by cost-savings and technology," he said.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Magnox Electric goes it alone

THE new public company responsible for running Britain's first-generation nuclear power stations began operating independently yesterday. Since January, Magnox Electric had been shadow trading as a division of Nuclear Electric from its corporate headquarters at Berkeley, Gloucestershire. It is now also responsible for decommissioning Magnox sites.

The new company, which employs 3,800, runs six power stations — at Wylfa, Oldbury, Sizewell A, Hinkley Point A, Dungeness A and Bradwell — and three decommissioning sites — at Trawsfynydd, Berkeley and Hunterston A. The Magnox stations are expected to produce about 8 per cent of the electricity for England and Wales annually.

Phone networks grow

THE war of words between Cellnet and Vodafone, the UK's two leading mobile telephone networks, continued as both released subscriber figures showing an increase in customers. Cellnet, which is owned by BT and Securicor, said figures for the year to March 31 showed that its total customer base had grown by about 37 per cent to 2.38 million. Vodafone said it now boasted a subscriber base of 2.45 million, up 35 per cent on the previous financial year.

United Utilities offshoot

UNITED UTILITIES, the combined water and power group formed through the £1.8 billion takeover of Norweb by North West Water, has launched a facilities management company, Veritec, based in Manchester, has a staff of 2,500 and an initial annual turnover of £200 million. Employees from North West Water and Norweb have transferred to the firm. Last week, United Utilities announced 1,700 job losses, taking the number of redundancies since the merger to 2,500.

Orange dealing for all

PRIVATE investors in Orange, the mobile phone group, can begin stock market dealing today. The shares were traded by institutions last week, having been issued at 205p each, and reached a healthy premium, trading yesterday at 225p. Dealing for small investors was delayed because allocations had not been notified when dealing began for institutions. The offer was subscribed ten times, with 325 million shares on offer, of which 26 million went to private investors.

Scania valued at £3.5bn as shares make debut

By MARTIN BARROW

SCANIA, the heavy truck and bus maker, has been valued at 36 billion Swedish krona (£3.5 billion) as its shares begin trading on stock markets in Stockholm and New York.

UK institutions have subscribed for up to 20 per cent of the shares. Up to 45 per cent will go to the Nordic countries, of which 10 per cent will go to the general public in Sweden, and 25 per cent will go to the United States and Canada. The remainder of the shares will go to the rest of the world.

The shares are being sold by Investor, the investment holding company of Sweden's powerful industrial and financial Wallenberg group. Scania becomes the first Swedish company to secure a

share listing on Wall Street and is the seventh largest company on the Stockholm stock exchange.

The offer was 27 times subscribed. SBC Warburg, Morgan Stanley and Enskilda were joint global co-ordinators for the offering. The offer was set at SKr180 per share. Institutions which had bid below SKr180 received no shares in the allocation.

Clas Dahlback, president of Investor, said: "We are delighted with the outcome of the Scania public offering... the perception of Scania as one of the world's leading capital goods companies was widely confirmed." Scania had net income of \$475 million on revenues of \$5.19 billion in 1995.

After the completion of the

offering, Investor's residual shareholding would amount to approximately 25 per cent of the capital and 40 per cent of the votes. The shares opened at a small premium yesterday.

Some 100 million shares were allotted under the terms of the original offer. Investor said, adding that the underwriters of the offering had a 30-day over-allotment option of a further 5 per cent of Scania's capital and votes.

In New York, the initial public offering of Scania was priced at \$27.078 per American Depositary Receipt. Morgan Stanley acted as underwriter.

The New York Stock Exchange described the initial public offering as the world's largest corporate stock offering.

Capita wins contract worth £72m

By OUR CITY STAFF

CAPITA GROUP, the business support services company, said its managed services subsidiary has won a £72 million contract to administer the Teachers' Superannuation Scheme (TSS) in England and Wales for seven years.

The contract was awarded by the Department for Education and Employment and will begin on October 1.

The scheme is currently administered by the Teachers' Pension Agency (TPA). Capita will take on TPA's 430 staff.

Capita shares rose 16p to 33p.

US funds to check out Ulster opportunities

By OUR CITY STAFF

REPRESENTATIVES of America's largest pension funds and leading international money managers will meet for four days in September to study investment opportunities in Northern Ireland.

They will meet in Belfast and Dublin while the Irish Republic holds the presidency of the European Union.

The conference has been organised by Pensions 2000, based in San Francisco, after an approach by Senator Edward Kennedy. It follows last year's Washington investment conference organised by President Clinton in the wake of the IRA and loyalist ceasefires.

Philip Schaefer, president of Pensions 2000, said the event

would go ahead in spite of the breakdown of the IRA ceasefire. "We will redouble the efforts to make our conference an enormous success because peace and economic development go hand-in-hand." The American Embassy in Dublin and the US Consulate in Belfast are working closely on the project.

Joe White, US Commercial Service representative in Belfast, said: "US companies are increasingly recognising that Ireland is a natural entry-way to the European market and offers many other advantages to investors, including an educated workforce, advanced infrastructure and a stable corporate and legal environment."

London & Manchester lifts mis-selling sum

Insurer surges to £57m

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

LONDON & Manchester, the life insurer, has set aside an extra £5 million to cover compensation for customers who were mis-sold personal pensions. This brings the total sum to £29 million.

For the year ending December 31, distributable profits (after tax) increased by £2.1 million to £35.7 million against £33.6 million in the comparable period.

Life companies are now required to show pre-tax profit figures which include both realised and unrealised losses and gains on investments. As a consequence, London & Manchester's pre-tax profit for the year rose to £57.1 million against a loss of £14 million for the previous year. London & Manchester was



Pyne cost-cutting

the first company to apply to the Department of Trade and Industry to redistribute so-called "orphan assets" from its life fund. Transfers of surplus from the life, pensions and managed funds companies were £19.5 million, £3 mil-

lion and £550,000, making £23.1 million, a rise of 6 per cent over last year.

Tom Pyne, chief executive, said 1995 had proved to be "another difficult year for the UK life industry" which had resulted in a decline in new business revenues. Single premiums fell by 57 per cent, partly because of the company's withdrawal from selling guaranteed-income bonds.

London & Manchester spent the year on a cost-cutting drive, shedding 250 jobs from its Exeter head office. Losses at the residential estate agency chain deepened from £1.3 million to £2.6 million, in spite of the closure of eight branches. The total dividend per share will be 18.7p, a rise of 9 per cent.

Tempus, page 28

For your company golf day... ...it's the business



The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge is open to any company, organisation, partnership, association or body (not golf society) based in the British Isles, which holds a business or company golf day in which 12 or more amateur players take part.



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2. Simply send off the completed form, together with the registration fee of £160 plus VAT as soon as possible, prior to your golf day and no later than 10th September 1996.
3. The top four scoring golfers in your golf day's individual Stableford competition - including up to three guests (your option) - will become eligible to represent your company (as a team) at one of the twelve regional finals in October this year.
4. Your best of four will, if their aggregate Stableford score is among the top 25 aggregate scores in your region, qualify for a regional final.
5. The winning company from each of the twelve regions will compete in the national final at Hyatt La Milla Club Resort in Spain in November. To be entered for a Sky TV broadcast.
6. Golf days registered after 10th September or played after 27th September will be entered for the 1997 Challenge.

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Address: _____
County: _____
on _____ (date) and will be attended by approximately _____ golfers
If the venue and date of your golf day have yet to be finalised please leave blank and return to us as soon as it is confirmed

Trophy Requirements

The trophies for your four qualifiers will be sent to you for presentation on your golf day. Unless you state otherwise, your company name, as spelt out in section 1 above, will be inscribed, as will the date and name of the golf club. If you require an abbreviation of your company name or indeed another name altogether, please print here: _____

I accept the terms and conditions for company registration and enclose a cheque for £160.25 inc. VAT made payable to The Times MeesPierson C.C.C. Please send the completed form to The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge, PO Box 4, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 3DL. A VAT invoice will be sent with acknowledgement.

Rules and Regulations

The competition is approved by the RGA for payment of expenses - "Rule 1.1 Sec. 7 RAGG 95".
A full set of rules and conditions will be sent with acknowledgement of receipt of this registration form, or you may obtain a copy or further information by contacting the Challenge organisers on:

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Client Approval

A candidate who placed recently was in great demand because she had a large and active client who was willing to move with her. She herself was not unhappy with her existing firm, but the client had fallen out with it. Seeking the opportunity, she had taken the initiative to carry out a search for a new law firm on the client's behalf. She was playing a double role, therefore, both as a candidate herself and as a scout for her client, and this uniquely led to some confusion.

After several interviews, she favoured a medium-sized firm based in the City. They were more interested in the client than the candidate, however, and felt unable to make an offer – even a tentative offer – without meeting the client first. They wished to assess whether it was a genuine prospect. The candidate, understandably, was reluctant to introduce her client to them before receiving an acceptable offer. There was a stalemate, and despite our intervention the firm refused to move. Fortunately, another firm – West End based, and equally situated – was prepared to make her a provisional offer, and a meeting between the firm and the client was arranged. The client approved of the firm, and the job offer was formally accepted.

Corruption arises in these situations because appearances do not match reality. The law firm thinks it is interviewing a candidate for a job vacancy whereas in truth the candidate's client is interviewing the firm. Putting this across, and doing so tactfully, is a delicate task for the recruitment consultant.

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PRACTICE London: David Jermyn, David Woolston, Melanie Mitchell-Baker
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Senior Property: West End

Thriving c 25 partner West End firm with strong commercial property reputation seeks 5-8 year qualified solicitor with part-following.

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Superb opening for corp lawyer c 2-4 yrs' qual wishing to combine quality of work with improved lifestyle.

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Insurance Litigation: Manchester
0-1 year qualified solicitor with experience offered superb position with leading firm.

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Philip Boynton LLB LLM or Matthew Root LLB. Alternatively, send your CV to either of them at the address opposite:

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LAW

● LIBEL REFORM 37
● LAW REPORT 39

As the mad cow crisis continues, David Conn, below, and Edward Fennell report on possible legal actions

Who cares for the victims?

Nothing has yet been done by the Government to make contact with the families of the ten who died from the Jakob disease, despite the explosion of media coverage after the revelation that BSE is the most likely explanation for those deaths.

The Government's scientific advisers have said there could be an "epidemic" of CJD, but a spokesman for the Department of Health, asked what the Government was doing for the families of the victims, replied succinctly: "Nothing." The Government, he said, was currently "not considering any help at all" for the victims, whether educational or emotional: far less an offer of financial compensation. "Why should there be?" the official said. "The Government is not responsible for these new cases."

David Churchill disagrees. His son Stephen died from CJD last May. "No compensation is possible in our case," Mr Churchill says. "Other families may have lost a breadwinner; we did not. We lost a boy with his whole life ahead of him. How do you compensate for that? But we would certainly consider joining a class action to determine who is to blame for Stephen's death. We understand there may have been rogue abattoirs or farmers, but we do not blame those industries generally. They, like us, were acting on government advice. Our current feeling, we are prepared to state, is that the Government was responsible for our son's death."

As yet, there have been no calls by politicians for families to be spared the ordeal of a legal battle with the Government. Oliver Thorold, a barrister experienced in personal injury and medical negligence cases, is "amazed" that no opposition party has raised this question. He draws parallels with two similar incidents of fatal disease: haemophiliacs infected with Aids from contaminated blood products and CJD victims claiming that they

contracted the disease from contaminated human growth hormones (HGH).

The HGH cases, known as "the CJD litigation", are being contested by the Government. According to the Department of Health official, no offer has been made to compensate the families of 17 victims, and the cases will be defended "to the hilt". The trial, expected to last six weeks, is due to start on April 16. The case of the haemophiliacs was settled in 1990 after two years of litigation.

Mr Thorold argues that the victims' families should not be subjected to an antagonistic legal battle but should be compensated now for their bereavement. For the present, however, the Department of Health appears to be unmoved.

The victims' families, having had no offer from the Government, have been forced to consider litigation. It is known that solicitors have already been instructed to consider suing the Government for negligence over its handling of the BSE disaster.

David Body, of Irwin Mitchell, a Sheffield firm, who is one of two co-ordinating solicitors in the HGH litigation, sees similarities in the approach a court would take to the BSE question. "First," he says, "there is the question of knowledge. The court will look at what the government departments can be imputed to have known about the learning regarding spongiform encephalopathy. Secondly, it will consider the Government's role as a regulatory body: in the case of BSE, of the food industry."

The Government's record could be vulnerable in both areas. It continues to argue there was "no evidence" that degenerative disease could be transmitted from cows to human beings. But any claimant would refer to scientifically known risks which, they would argue, should have been appreciated earlier. Allegations of regulatory failure



David and Dot Churchill "lost a boy with his whole life ahead of him" when CJD took their son Stephen

would begin in 1980, with the failure of the Thatcher Government to follow through a 1978 Labour Government consultation paper that called for compulsory licensing of carcasses and offal-rendering plants. Also called into evidence would be the failure to implement the conclusions of the Tyrell committee, which in June 1989 recommended the monitoring of brains of cattle sent to slaughter.

The only certain thing is that if a negligence action were brought, it would be very long, involve huge documentation and transfer large

amounts of public money to lawyers. Mr Body thinks that the case of government negligence may well be arguable, but he believes strongly that it should not be allowed to go ahead. He explains: "The same mistake should not be made as was made in the HGH cases. An independent inquiry should be carried out straight away, to find out how we have reached this state and what our response should be."

"This is extremely important. In the HGH cases, no inquiry was carried out and litigation has been the only option open to the families

to find out the truth of how the victims died."

Mr Thorold agrees, saying that the families should be spared the "legal sword dance" of suing the Government to get at the truth. He contrasts the forsaking of the victims with the Government's relationship with farmers. "If there is a cull of cattle," he says, "the farmers are likely to be given millions of pounds in compensation. This will contrast horribly with the stark plight of the victims, battling against government denials of liability."

Life's work up in flames

Last week William Neville, the head of the agricultural unit at Burges Salmon in Bristol, had the first glimpse of what the weeks ahead would hold. Farmers — old clients of the firm — were phoning up in tears for advice as they viewed the prospect of their life's work going up in flames.

Now Britain's agricultural lawyers are gearing up for the fight of their lives. For Burges Salmon, it is particularly important. With a core of 40 agricultural specialists, it is the UK's largest agricultural practice. And, along with their colleagues elsewhere in the firm and as part of the Norton Rose M5 group, the firm has assembled a BSE action squad that has moved to the first stage of the group-wide "disaster" plan.

Mr Neville says: "I pray that we don't have to put it into action, but if we do, it will be a super-effective way of dealing with the crisis."

While the fate of the farmers and the national herd is centre-stage, lawyers such as Mr Neville are also seeing the impact of BSE on hauliers, abattoirs, auctioneers and food companies. Already potential legal disputes are surfacing: over, for example, contractual arrangements. What will happen when the food companies turn down contracted-for beef supplies? And what about the hauliers who have no beasts to take to market? Or the insurance policies based on size of turnover where business has slumped by 70 per cent in a fortnight?

Agricultural lawyers are totting up a long list of possible actions and planning their future strategies. But Mr Neville advises: "We must wait to see how the Government and the European Commission decide to handle it."

The compensation issue is at the forefront of most farmers' minds. Nigel Davis, who heads the agricultural practice at Shakespeares in Birmingham, could scarcely be closer to the crisis. Commuting daily from Ashbourne in Derbyshire, where he has a herd of Aberdeen Angus, he sees things from both sides. "Being in the middle of it," he says, "helps to focus the mind on the finer detail."

He believes that a rumour is likely to follow any proposal for a flat-rate compensation. He says: "There can be large differentials in the value of cattle, depending on whether or not they are pedigree. I have been discussing the matter with other farmers and will write to the Minister of Agriculture to put the point because no one else seems to have noticed it so far."

Mr Davis is a member of Agrilaw, a group of specialist agricultural firms. Jeannette Dennis of Taylor Vinter in Cambridge, like Mr Davis also a part-time farmer, is a fellow member. "As well as being a lawyer," she says, "I run a pig farm. Ironically, I have seen the price of pork rise as the BSE scare has mounted."

While talking to her clients, Miss Dennis has noticed that there is already a BSE effect on the trade in milk quotas. Normally at this time of year, there is a brisk trade between those farmers who have quota to spare and those who need more. "This year, however, the market is quiet as the industry waits to see just how far any proposed cull of the national herd and dairy herd might go."

More immediately, however, Miss Dennis knows of farmers who are just a short way from bankruptcy. Once the dust settles, the victims will be looking for redress. The question is, whom should they sue. The Government. Brussels, the feed manufacturers?

Henry Abraham, of the Kent firm of Brachers, points out that the courts are reluctant to countenance a claim against the Government for negligence, although an argument could be made that it did not act decisively enough and thereby allowed hysteria to develop.

He says: "This is going to set a precedent for the future because it is a case of such enormous magnitude."

Meanwhile, Sally Graham, of the agricultural department at Mills & Reeve, a Norwich firm, comments: "Though we are getting on with other work, BSE is hanging over everything we do. We are sitting here just waiting for the storm to burst overhead."

School for illiterate lawyers

LAWYERS are not known for their good, clear English. But they are keen to go back to school to put things right. At the City law firm Cameron Markby Hewitt yesterday, partners were rushing to sign up for a new training programme which, their marketing department said, would start with a "fundamental tutorial on grammar and handwriting".

An e-mail message explained to them that the firm was having to spend much money on hiring journalists to rewrite articles for marketing purposes and time was being wasted trying to decipher "illegible handwriting".

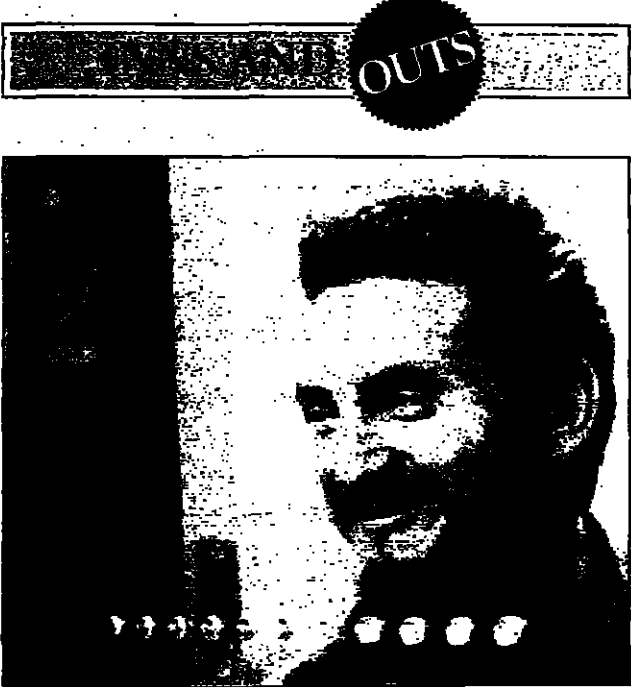
It went on: "We have taken advice from one of our clients, SBC Warburg, that graphology, the study of handwriting, has become recognised as a bona fide science and some clients are even assessing personality traits from signatures." The course would cover split infinitives, practical use of gerunds, uses of Latin tags and writing for American and other foreign audiences.

Unfortunately, the would-be students had failed to notice yesterday's date.

Tony Reiss, the marketing director, said: "We invited partners to attend first, as the worst offenders... and several had signed up by lunchtime. Perhaps we should offer the course after all."

Deadly serious

THE OSCAR for Dead Man Walking has put the debate



Dead Man Walking: has its message reached Texas?

over capital punishment back on the agenda. So *Capital Punishment* (Waterside Press £32 plus £1.50 p&p) could not be more timely.

The book is co-edited by Peter Hodgkinson, director of the Centre for Capital Punishment Studies at Westminster University, and the series editor, Andrew Rutherford, a criminologist. It includes chapters by leading authorities on the death penalty in several countries, as well as material on the history of the penalty and the role of doctors in its administration.

Meanwhile, the spirit of retribution lives on in Texas. The state has carried out 104 executions, the largest number in America, and has just changed its rules to allow a victim's relatives to watch.

As a result, the parents and grandparents of a brother and sister who were shot during

an armed robbery of a pawn shop in Houston will see the perpetrator's death by injection.

● Michael Beloff, QC, has been appointed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, which has been set up to deal with appeals over disputes arising from the Atlanta Olympics. He will be the only English representative on the panel of 12 lawyers making up the court's ad hoc division.

First meeting

A GROUP for Arab lawyers holds its inaugural meeting today. The Association of Arab Lawyers already has 120 members. Asmaa al-Adhamy, one of its founders and a trainee solicitor with Allen & Overy, says the society was set up to help Arab lawyers in the UK to network and to provide

a focus for clients seeking specialist services. "We're not a political group," she says. "Our aim is to forge links with lawyers in the Middle East and across the profession."

The meeting, at the Law Society, starts at 6.30pm.

Sitting targets

THE past year has been ground-breaking for the Law Society. The latest of a series of firsts for the society must be the appearance of an advertisement in the *Law Society Gazette* calling on supporters of the president, Martin Mears, to challenge his opponents on the council whose seats come up for re-election this summer.

The advertisement, placed by Mr Mears's own group of supporters on the council, appears alongside the president's regular column in which he expresses the hope that supporters of his reform programme will win all 15 of the seats up for grabs.

Great lines

NICK Towle, of the City firm Watson Farley & Williams, is the first English lawyer to have flown into Bosnia since the peace agreement. His mission, as part of a team of consultants financed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, is to get the citizens talking to each other by rebuilding the telecommunications system.

Flown in on an Ilfor troop plane and armed only with his UN pass, Mr Towle was heartened by what he found.

"Though the legacy of damage and distrust is huge," he says, "all the people we met were determined to rebuild their institutions and their lives as quickly as possible."

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PLEASE GOD, HELP ME WIN MY CASE TOMORROW.



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The purpose of this post is to assist the Attorney General's Chambers in the revision, updating and drafting of the laws of Guyana.

The Laws of Guyana were last revised in 1973 with revision pages printed in 1977. The Law Revision Commissioner will be responsible for preparing a revised edition of the laws under the authority of and in accordance with the Law Revision Act of Guyana.

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- have at least 10 years' experience in legislative drafting in a Commonwealth country or in more than one such country
- have substantial experience in law revision

The appointment is for 26 months.

Detailed applications (three copies) along with curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees should be sent to the Campus Registrar, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, PO Box 64, Bridgetown, Barbados or by fax (809) 425 1527 to reach him no later than 22 April 1996. Applications should be clearly marked Ref: Proj-95. To expedite the appointment procedure, applicants are advised to request their referees to send references under confidential cover direct to the above address without waiting to be contacted. Unsuitable applications will not be acknowledged. Further particulars for the post are available on request. These particulars may also be obtained from Appointments (44867), Association of Commonwealth Universities, 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF, UK (tel. (0171) 387 8572 Ext. 206; fax (0171) 813 3055; email appts@acu.ac.uk).

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25 أبريل 1996

Elton John's £500,000 libel win against the *Sunday Mirror* was cut to £75,000

Realism in the libel lottery

Frances Gibb reports on the latest move to reform procedures for seeking damages

All litigation is a lottery, say lawyers. But libel is the biggest lottery of them all. The stakes are high: a reputation weighed against huge legal costs (for which there is no legal aid), coupled with uncertain damages which — exceptionally in the civil courts — are awarded by a jury.

Today peers start to debate reforms intended to simplify the way in which courts tackle libel so that more people can obtain a remedy for a slur on their reputation. The Defamation Bill, which starts its committee stage in the House of Lords, will provide a new fast-track procedure for libel claims of up to £10,000. The idea is that the simpler libel claims can be disposed of quickly and cheaply, with judges assessing damages and dismissing any weak claims.

The Bill, based on a reforms produced first by Lord Hoffmann, the law lord, and then by Lord Justice Neill, the Court of Appeal judge, also offers something for the newspapers on the receiving end of suits. It creates a new "offer of amends" defence for newspapers that did not intend to defame and are willing to pay damages assessed by a judge and to publish an appropriate correction and apology.

The aim is to get cases before a judge more quickly and to reduce the number going before juries in long, vastly expensive trials. Concerns about the length, complexity and cost of libel trials has been fuelled in recent years by a few high-profile cases that resulted in huge payouts to plaintiffs.

But will the new Bill achieve its aims? Lawyers are claiming that it will

do little, in reality, to open the libel courts to plaintiffs without means. The measures, they say, could even backfire and result in higher costs and lower awards.

Sarah Webb, defamation partner with Russell Jones & Walker, predicts that it will tilt the present balance of power more towards the media through the lowering of awards.

She says: "Coupled with the recent change in the law after the 1995 Elton John case [in which the Court of Appeal laid down guidelines to bring awards in line with personal injury cases], the Bill will diminish libel awards to such an extent that the media will be unfettered in what they publish by the risk of a high award of damages."

Personal injury awards are at a depressed level, she points out. "Newspapers will be able to calculate in advance what a defamatory story will cost and decide whether it is worth publishing it. The cost of a half-page advertisement in *The Sun*, for example, is about £20,000, so damages of £5,000 to £20,000, which will be the norm in all but the most serious libel cases, will be a low price to pay for newspapers whose profits come in millions."

Andrew Stephenson, of Peter Carter-Ruck & Partners, also questions whether it will improve people's access to libel courts. The summary hearings before a judge will still depend on resolving conflicts of evidence and costs could mount up, he argues.

Furthermore, there will be scope for lawyers to argue over whether summary damages are appropriate; and about what form the correction and apology should take, which "trespasses into the traditional provinces of editorial responsibility".

He adds: "From the point of view of plaintiffs, it is doubtful whether the provisions add anything other than to introduce a ceiling on damages of £10,000." Under the Bill, plaintiffs will have to give up their right to jury trial if they opt for the new fast-track procedure. So if they fail in the fast track, he says, they would "be stuck".

This summary procedure will further remove one of the few checks and balances that exists to keep the media in place, according to Mrs Webb. "It is the judges who decide whether a case is suitable for summary judgment procedure," she says, "but it is unclear what evidence will be before them when they take that decision or, more important, when they decide the case under this procedure." Judges will be under pressure, she believes, to decide cases in the defendant's (publisher's) favour. Defendants will inevitably try to diminish the seriousness of a libel and to do everything within their power to underplay the impact of publication so as to make it suitable for summary procedure.

The concerns are, however, not all one way. Lawyers also point out that the measures have problems also for publishers, putting them in the "night-

mare" scenario in which they are liable for damages when they unintentionally defame. Peter Carter-Ruck, the leading libel lawyer, points out that the new "offer of amends" makes newspapers liable for compensation where they are not now. At present in such cases — where, perhaps, someone of the same name is innocently labelled — publishers can offer an apology and pay costs only. But the new offer of amends provides for them to offer compensation in such circumstances.

He accepts that the reforms will "remove some unfairness to litigants" — both plaintiffs and defendants. But they fail to go far enough. Several pressing defects are left unremedied, such as the lack of legal aid. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, he says, could consider extending this to those using the summary procedure.

There is consensus on one thing, however: that the present law needs reform. The Lord Chancellor's minister, Jonathan Evans, MP, told the Commons that libel costs were "disproportionately high" and often exceeded the damages won, as with Elton John. Victorians can also be pyrrhic.

Lord Aldington, who won a record £15 million damages, has seen only a fraction of his award because the defendants have no cash. In many ways, the present libel proposals foreshadow some of the reforms being floated by Lord Woolf in his civil justice inquiry. So how the new libel laws work — or otherwise — may provide a telling glimpse of the future.

Set up as a cheap and speedy forum for patent disputes, the Patents County Court seems to have lost its way

Great idea, but needs work

The Patents County Court is in need of reform, according to senior judges, Frances Gibb writes. The court came under fire recently in the case of the £2.7 million battle against Sony by a German who claimed to have invented the personal stereo. The judges threw his case out. But they took the opportunity to castigate the inefficient and costly procedures of the Patents County Court.

Their comments will be widely backed by the legal profession. The court has seen a dramatic fall in its workload since being set up under Margaret Thatcher's Government in 1990 as a speedy and cheap forum for patent disputes.

Instead, however, lawyers are

choosing to take their clients' disputes to the High Court. The number of new cases lodged in the Patents County Court is now at a record low level: in 1995, only 28 actions were started there, compared with 53 in 1994, 81 in 1993 and 94 in 1992, the high point.

Lawyers who use the court regularly have consistently accused it of failing to achieve its aims. Some of their fire has been directed specifically at the court's judge, Peter Ford. He, however, has strongly defended his record.

Trevor Cook, an intellectual-property lawyer with Bird & Bird, says: "The figures on the falling workload speak for themselves. But to some extent they also reflect the vastly improved service offered by the Patents Court in the High Court, which is now providing an excellent service."

The Court of Appeal judges' criticisms echo views that some lawyers have been reluctant to air publicly. Lord Justice Neill described what had happened as "lamentable". The patent in the

Sony dispute had two-and-a-half pages of written description which could be understood "without any scientific help".

Despite that, he said that the "parties" pleaded cases were set out in 261 pages with extensive annexes. There were nearly eight days of hearings about interlocutory disputes and the trial lasted nearly four weeks.

Every point was pursued, whether material or not, he added. "Whether the fault for these lamentable events is that of the procedure

adopted or something else is not for me to decide. However, some alteration is necessary if the purposes of the Patents County Court are to be achieved."

Lord Justice Hobhouse added that the procedure was "disproportionate" to the issues to be tried. There was over-elaboration of the pre-trial procedures and a failure to limit the trials' scope in preparatory stages, resulting in "inefficiency, delay and excessive cost".

David Jerrard, a partner with Baker & McKenzie, which acted

for Sony in the case, says: "At the end of the trial in the Patents County Court, the total costs were some £2.2 million. The court was meant to be a cheap and speedy way to resolve disputes and Sony did everything it could to simplify the issues but they remained complex."

Christopher Tootle, head of Herbert Smith's intellectual-property group, said the setting-up of the court had been a good idea. But he accepted that it could now be reformed. "The court should concentrate on cases which can be tried in a day or two."

The Patents County Court is launching two pilot schemes for resolving disputes by arbitration and mediation.



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■ VISUAL ART 1

The "forgotten Impressionist" is recalled as the Royal Academy puts Gustave Caillebotte on show



■ VISUAL ART 2

Traditionalists rather than foyes? The New English Art Club sets out its stall

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ VISUAL ART 3

A new show, Ben Nicholson and Two Wives, provides rare and rewarding insights



■ TOMORROW

A proper view of St Paul's? Marcus Binney on the growing scandal of Paternoster Square

SUCH was the glamour of the alliance between Britain's two most famous and gifted abstract artists, Ben Nicholson and Barbara Hepworth, that his previous wife, Winifred (Roberts), has tended to be left out of the equation almost as completely as Hepworth's previous husband, the sculptor John Skeaping. While one could claim that Skeaping, though in his own way talented, had no important place in the story of modern art, the current exhibition at Crane Kalman, *Ben Nicholson and Two Wives*, is a salutary reminder that Winifred was at the very least an important figure in Ben's formative years, and a remarkable artist in her own right. There are no clear-cut divisions in the lives of all three. True, the relationship between Ben's and Winifred's work is almost entirely on Ben's figurative side, while that between Ben's and Barbara's is largely on his abstract. There are some fine

AROUND THE GALLERIES

early landscapes where Ben's and Winifred's styles are so close that one has to look twice to be quite sure who painted what and who arrived at which point of development first. The works of Ben and Barbara on show are all first-class, but it is with Winifred's that one gets a real sense of discovery.

Crane Kalman Gallery, 178 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-584 3843) until May 4.

□ Family relations of a less tangled nature are featured in *Sumray and Sumray* at the Boundary Gallery. The two Sumrays in question are Harman and Jason, father and son. Harman is now 76, Jason 34, but their styles of painting are not as different as one might imagine from the age difference. Jason's colour is cooler, his paint surface more agitated. Harman's approach is more

closely related to the flat surface on which he paints. Jason is more interested in almost sculptural modelling. But their subject matter is very similar. Curiosity about Harman is gratified to some extent by a couple of earlier works like *Figure with Bird* (1933), which looks very like the contemporary work of Colquhoun and Macbryde. Now it would be interesting to compare also the work of Harman's artist-rival Maurice Boundary. *Boundary Gallery, 98 Boundary Road, NW3 (0171-624 1136), until April 30.*

□ More happy families in *Joan Warburton: Portrait of a Lifetime* at Sally Hunter. Joan Warburton, like Harman Sumray, was born in 1920, and — perhaps the crucial step in her artistic life — enrolled in Cedric Morris's East Anglian School of Paint-

ing in 1937. In 1945 she met and married the potter Peter O'Malley, and after some years in London they moved to Essex, back near Morris and his partner Lett Haines. One of the most striking works in the show is a drawing by Warburton of O'Malley in 1945; at a glance one would immediately suppose it to be the work of Lucian Freud, whose time at the Morris school overlapped by at least a year with Warburton's. It is clear that Morris's influence on all his pupils has been strong and far-reaching, extending to the vibrant colours they employ as well as the sophisticatedly simple graphic style. To this day, Warburton retains these qualities, and the most recent still-lives are also the most charming.

Sally Hunter Fine Art, 11 Halkin Arcade, SW1 (0171-235 0934), until April 19.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Richard Cork assesses a champion of Impressionism's own work



In *Le Pont de l'Europe* (1876), Gustave Caillebotte "conveyed his fascination with Paris's changing structure"

The collector's items

Like many admirers of Impressionism, I first came across Gustave Caillebotte as a donor's name attached to paintings by other, more celebrated artists. Masterpieces like Manet's *The Balcony* or Renoir's *Ball at the Moulin de la Galette*, now among the most prized canvases in the French national collections, arrived there through Caillebotte's generosity and pioneering belief in the Impressionist cause. But they rarely did not enter the public domain at all.

In 1894, after a stroke killed him at the age of 45, his will disclosed that he had left around 60 works by Degas, Cézanne, Monet and other leading Impressionists to the State. They amounted, as Caillebotte himself knew, to a challenge: these paintings were still reviled by many powerful curators, and they reacted to his bequest with hostility. Only after rejecting some pictures, including important Cézannes, did they agree that the rest could be displayed — not in the Louvre, but the Musée du Luxembourg. And when these 40 pictures were finally put on display in 1897, many viewers denounced them as rubbish. The first group of Impressionist paintings ever to be exhibited in a French museum, they bore the brunt of public hostility to a movement which has only gained its present popularity during the present century.

Caillebotte, however, was far more than a wealthy and discerning collector. As the Royal Academy's new exhibition discloses, he was also a substantial artist in his own right. The Impressionists' first exhibition of 1874 was a revelation to him, and two years later his fast-maturing work as a painter earned him an invitation to take part in their next show.

But, although respected by his allies, Caillebotte never enjoyed the renown they eventually gained. The Academy's survey is the first comprehensive exhibition of his work to be held in Britain, and even today he remains an unfamiliar name. An initial look at the paintings assembled here helps to explain why. Caillebotte lacked the essential deftness of touch, the ability to improvise and beguile, which accounts for Impressionism's enduring appeal. He is a thoughtful and diligent artist, largely unconcerned with seducing the viewer.

Caillebotte thrived on the tensions of urban life. His true individuality only comes to the fore when he defines the unease of Parisian streets and interiors. If Renoir rejoiced in the pleasures of metropolitan existence, Caillebotte was not afraid to explore the more disquieting sides of life in the French capital.

The exhibition has not, unfortunately, been able to borrow his greatest urban painting — the monumental *Paris Street*:

Rainy Day, now presiding over its room in the Art Institute of Chicago. But the Academy does boast *Le Pont de l'Europe*, which Caillebotte displayed with the Chicago canvas at the third Impressionist show in 1877. Taking as his subject a recently constructed iron bridge, which boldly connected six streets in a radial design, he conveyed his fascination with the city's rapidly changing structure.

Caillebotte grew up in Paris during the Second Empire, witnessing the transformation brought about by Napoleon III and his enterprising prefect of Paris, Baron Haussmann. By carving 85 miles of grand boulevards through the slums, Haussmann created a hygienic and formidably well-organised urban network where revolutionary barricades

prison bars, and appear to affect the spirits of the ruminative worker who gazes through them. His loose, well-worn clothes and sagging stance contrast with the crispness of the top-hatted gentleman walking towards us. Caillebotte, like Manet before him, was fascinated by the disparity between the social classes found on the streets. But the seeming respectability of the well-dressed boulevardier is compromised by the presence, just behind him, of a lady with a parasol. Fashionably attired, she looks across at him; while he, pausing, glances back at her. Caillebotte leaves us to speculate about the possibility that she is a courtesan on the prowl, and the dog waving its tail in the foreground acts as a frisky reminder of animal appetites.

However many reservations Caillebotte may have harboured about modern city life, he probably regarded the streets as a release from the constriction of home. The most elaborate of these images, *Luncheon*, could hardly be more stifling. The artist's mother, a grave and white-haired presence seated at the far end of a well-polished dining table, is served by the family butler. Caillebotte's brother René seems oblivious of her presence, however. He has already demolished most of the food on his plate. The abundance of crystal decanters and goblets glittering around him testifies to considerable prosperity, but no amount of expensive tableware can compensate for the sense of distance between mother and son in this forlorn painting.

They are as isolated from each other as the two pedestrians stranded on a traffic island in the Boulevard Haussmann, the subject of a remarkably daring picture. Viewed from a precipitously high vantage, so that the bare oval of the island is asserted in all its geometric severity, the scene separates the minuscule men with an expanse of white emptiness. The fact that they face in opposite directions increases their solitude, and the absence from the encircling road of anything other than a swiftly brushed carriage increases the eeriness.

This is the most uncompromisingly modern of all Caillebotte's paintings, and its semi-abstract spareness could hardly be more removed from the meticulous clutter of *Luncheon*. They represent the two extremes in Caillebotte's art, united by a prescient awareness of the gathering alienation in late 19th-century life.

Although his subsequent work reveals a sad waning of intensity and ambition, the images Caillebotte produced during the 1870s deserve to be counted among the most challenging products of the movement he did so much to support.

● Gustave Caillebotte at the Royal Academy (0171-494 5615) until June 23



Art of a city: an 1880 image of A Balcony (Boulevard Haussmann)

could no longer be erected with ease. The boulevards were the last word in modernised uniformity, and in his *Rainy Day* canvas Caillebotte coolly conveyed the vastness of damp thoroughfares where pedestrians, protected by umbrellas, seem marooned within their impersonal new surroundings.

The weather is far brighter in the Pont de l'Europe canvas, but sunshine does not tempt Caillebotte to adopt a more hedonistic approach. In a carefully planned composition, he places us on the bridge and uses powerful spatial recession to lead our eyes towards the distant smoke from a train below. The fierce criss-cross patterns of the bridge's metal spans, and the equally stern blue shadows they cast on the pavement, cut a diagonal path through the painting. They appear to symbolise the strength of the industrial age, and Caillebotte relishes their ability to splinter the views of the city beyond.

After a while, though, the mighty iron girders take on a more oppressive air. They stamp themselves on the image like

New perspective on tradition

Simon Tait on a group of artists still passionately committed to drawing and painting from nature

Founded towards the end of the last century as an alternative to the Royal Academy, the New English Art Club initially brought together a group of young painters trained in France and inspired by the "pleinairisme" — open-air painting of Bastien-Lepage and the Barbizon School. In English terms, they represented the end of the narrative painting so firmly espoused by the Royal Academy at the time.

Early members included Walter Sickert, Wilson Steer, Stanhope Forbes, John Singer Sargent, Paul Nash and William Orpen. Some of them mellowed with age and became Royal Academicians themselves. Later new blood included Augustus John and then Gwen John.

The president of the Royal Academy, Frederic Leighton, went to the opening of what was intended to be the first of

the club's annual exhibitions at the Marlborough Galleries in 1886. "The second year will try, the third probably disband them," he predicted dismissively.

But the New English survived, and has had its open exhibition more or less annually, though relatively obscurely in the postwar decades. "After the 1940s and 1950s," says Tom Coates, a long-standing member, "something went wrong and it lost its point a bit. There were some odd elections and it got rather dingy, rather difficult to see how we were different from any other artists' club."

A century on and the club is holding a short sale exhibition

at the Fine Art Society which, it is hoped, will raise £100,000 for its pastoral role as a peripatetic drawing school.

"The point is that few art schools are teaching drawing any more, and one of our principles is that drawing is at the root of everything," says Jason Bowyer, who travels the country teaching "anyone who wants to hold a pencil" on behalf of the New English. His father is William Bowyer, secretary of the New English — in its democratic style, there is no president but a secretary, a treasurer and a keeper.

There are more than 70 members now, all elected by the members, and there is still an annual open exhibition,

usually at the Mall Galleries, also selected by the whole membership. Abstract painters are welcome, provided their work is inspired by the same natural influences as the figurative artists.

The annual open almost did not survive the recession, but Marks & Spencer came to the rescue with sponsorship. Christie's has also pitched in, paying for the catalogue.

"We're not here as a foyeyish reminder of the 1890s," said Bill Bowyer. "We're passionate about the disciplines of figurative art."

"I'll defend the right of anyone to paint a daffodil in milk jug now as much as in 1886. That doesn't change. As long as it's a reasonably good daffodil."

● The New English Art Club 2000, an exhibition and silent auction, is at the Fine Art Society, 149 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171 629 5110), until Thursday.



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THEATRE

No more beating about the Bush: the brilliant young Dominic Dromgoole spreads his wings



MUSIC 1

Controversial but compelling: Pierre Boulez reveals a fresh approach to Mahler

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC 2

Winner by a mile: Rafal Payne dazzles at the BBC Young Musician of the Year



DANCE

English National Ballet brings a spirited updating of *Giselle* to the Coliseum

Ghosts on the attack

THE real delight of English National Ballet's *Giselle* is not the gunnicky first act, where *Giselle* is a chambermaid in 1920's Austria and Albrecht drives a Rolls-Royce, but the wonderfully atmospheric second act, where the company's true strengths are revealed.

It wasn't long ago that ENB couldn't muster a creditable line-up of Willis (or swans for that matter), a fairly critical problem for a company that makes its living out of the classics. But if Derek Deane has done just one thing to validate his appointment as artistic director three years ago, that one thing must be whipping his dancers into shape.

Thursday's performance (the London premiere of Deane's production) fielded an impressive line-up of Willis whose uniformity and commitment provided a thrilling backbone to the drama. They really were a creepy troupe of avenging females on the ramp.

Giselle/
Square Dance
Coliseum

page, their black eyes and white faces summoning up images of vampires. Josephine Jewkes, as Myrtha, led them with fierce determination — not a ghost to be trifled with.

Dmitri Gruzdev, who made a strong impact in the first half with his robust Hilarion, went for broke in Act II. His daring backward leap, as Hilarion is dispatched to death by the Willis, was so effectively executed that there were those in the audience who feared for Gruzdev's safety.

Lisa Pavane is an accomplished dancer, her gentleness belying her physical strength. Her *Giselle* made all the right moves, although there was nothing out of the ordinary about her interpretation. Thomas Edur, on the other hand, treated us to his extraordinary classicism. As Albrecht, the refinement of his dancing should have been a giveaway from the start — no one dances like this except an aristocrat. Edur's beats in his dance of death were textbook-perfect, yet even in the grip of such an exhausting technical feat he still managed to plead Albrecht's case beautifully.

Deane's production is meant to be fun, although I suspect the decision to update the ballet to the Twenties and set it in a country hotel full of skiers (designs by Charles Cusick-Smith) has more to do with the design possibilities of vintage cars and furry hats than with any dramatic logic.

There were no designs to speak of in Balanchine's sublime *Square Dance*, which opened the bill. This is pure dancing at its most ecstatic, as Balanchine marries the high-spirited communality of American folk dancing to the glamorous sophistication of neo-classical ballet. The whole thing is set — gloriously — to music by Corelli and Vivaldi. Ambra Vallo, in particular, got the measure of the choreography, sparkling like one of the diamond earrings that adorn Balanchine's women.

DEBRA CRAINE

Moses leaves burning Bush

Dominic Dromgoole tells Benedict Nightingale why he quit the pub theatre he made a success

I n 1990 the 25-year-old Dominic Dromgoole cheekily applied for the job of artistic director at the Bush, in west London. Since leaving Cambridge five years earlier, he had read scripts for the theatre and been that all-purpose dog-body called an assistant director, but he had never staged a play there. Indeed, his only professional productions had been a couple of pieces at a much less prestigious London pub theatre, the Old Red Lion, in Islington.

"But I did the best interview I've ever done, and they took a wild gamble on me," Dromgoole says. "They thought they could either get an established director and go on the same way, which wasn't working at the time, or they could get a hooligan and, if he made a mess, tell him to shove off. Fortunately, the mess came out all right."

Indeed it did. We hear a good deal these days about an explosion of new writing at Stephen Daldry's Royal Court and its Theatre Upstairs, but Dromgoole might have been hiding his light rather than displaying it at the Bush for all the public ad hoc impeding departure has caused. That is a pity. Whatever the success of his vaudeville production of Samuel Adamson's *Clocks and Whistles*, which opened tonight, he has moved a significant theatre to the centre of British theatre's volcanic zone.

Since January 1991, the creative fires at Shepherd's Bush have been throwing up ten plays a year, most of them world premieres, the rest English premieres, and virtually all by unknown writers. That is more than twice the number staged by the previous regime, and is matched by a rise in audiences and takings. Turnover is £600,000 compared with £300,000 in 1990, and some 75 per cent of the theatre's 130 seats are now being sold, compared with about 25 per cent before.

The discoveries include Naomi Wallace, Richard Cramer, Simon Bent, Philip Ridley, David Ashton and Jonathan Harvey, whose *Beautiful Thing* went on to conquer the West End and is to become a film. In 1987 Dromgoole

found Billy Roche's *Handful of Stars* in the slush-pile and recommended its production, thus launching not only the trilogy that culminated in the marvellous *Belfry* at the Bush in 1991, but one of the most luminous careers of our era.

Attention to the slush-pile, as both publishers and theatres call the myriad unsolicited scripts that clutter their boxrooms, is one of the secrets of the resurgent Bush's success. Starting with Roche and Harvey, writer after writer has come from this improbable source. Dromgoole's own opening production was *Our Own Kind*, originally a half-

aesthetic, social or political agenda. Following talent is all.

Products of the policy have ranged from Bent's recent *Colddark Road*, which hilariously packed a family of spivs, drones and misanthropes into a shabby flat supposedly sited just down the street from the Bush itself, to Wallace's scorching *Great Plague* play *One Flea Spare*, to *White Woman Street*, Sebastian Barry's tale of banishment in America. The last of these introduced London to the author of *The Steward of Christendom* and demonstrated the extraordinary flexibility of the Bush.

That has become more marked than ever during Dromgoole's tenure. A few square yards, bounded on two sides by steep rakes of notably uncomfortable square cushions, has become a church and belfry, a swimming pool, and, in the case of *White Woman Street*, Ohio forests and trails. "Yes, and people riding horses, shooting pigs, going to the whorehouse..." We tell writers they don't have to be reductive. They can be as ambitious and wild as they like. It's up to us to match their imaginations.

With the Bush in full spate, why is Dromgoole leaving? As he rather improbably describes it, he decided to hand in his notice during a dullish board meeting, and when he did, his fellow-members said: "Oh, are you going?" "I honestly believe that people in charge of a public institution should be thrown out after five or six years," he says. "I try to be as effective as I can but I do exercise my own taste, and I think it's an abuse of public money if a theatre reflects one person's taste for too long."

So Mike Bradwell will be moving into the Bush this summer while Dromgoole moves out, to do some freelance directing and, he hopes, put together some film projects. "I adore the place. I love the way you can walk out of that terrific pub bar and go straight into the theatre. I'll miss it a lot. But it's time to go."

Clocks and Whistles opens at the Bush, Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388) tonight

‘We have no aesthetic, social or political agenda. Talent is all’

finished play penned as a therapeutic exercise by Roy MacGregor after a stint in an alcoholism clinic. He is now a thriving TV dramatist, as is Lucy Gannon, another slush-pile pioneer.

A sharp eye for talent has played its part in the Bush's rebirth, but so has luck and response to cultural change. When Dromgoole took over, the fashion was for classic revivals and what he calls "big swish physical productions". "New drama was in retreat. The plays seemed to be rather dry, arid and intellectual. Also, there was a tremendous amount of victim drama. You were meant to look at suffering characters and say, 'Oh, how terrible.'"

"I thought this was ill-equipped to deal with the new world emerging in the 1990s. We wanted something juicier, more energetic and textured, with more exciting language. I also thought it was time we put the aggressor onstage instead of asking the audience to spend its time being sympathetic. But above all, I thought we should ask the writers what they wanted to do, and let them do it. We have no



Dominic Dromgoole reflects on six years as artistic director of the Bush theatre

CONCERTS: Authority of a veteran Russian conductor; a new star violinist is discovered; unconventional Mahler

Stamp of old Russia

RPO/Musin/
Edwards
Barbican

as a surprise. It was his shaping of the piece that told the broad warmth of the love theme and the careful placing of the final chords were conducting lessons in themselves. It would have been wonderful to hear Musin do Shostakovich — the two men enrolled on the same day at the St Petersburg Conservatory —

but the First Violin Concerto is a long, tiring work. Sian Edwards accompanied Vadim Repin considerably, perhaps too much: the sprawling first movement needed firmer control, and ensemble in the fast movements was not always secure. Repin was a thoughtful soloist, but he played with seemingly boundless virtuosity in the Scherzo and Burlesque.

Both the RPO's programmes were designed to complement the Barbican's Diaghilev exhibition, and in the second one Edwards conducted a glowing *Firebird*. Her interpretation had enchanted mystery. The big "numbers" went well, especially the brilliant Infernal Dance and haunting Lullaby, but from start to finish this was a performance full of subtle shadings.

JOHN ALLISON

Polish student takes a bow

THERE has never been a more accomplished BBC Young Musician than Rafal Payne. Born in Poland 18 years ago, now resident in Aberdeen and a violin student at the Yehudi Menuhin School, he was both the popular favourite and the expert selection. He was so far ahead of the competition in the concerto final that there would surely have been a demonstration if the jury hadn't come to the same conclusion as everyone else.

This does not necessarily mean that he is a better instrumentalist than, say, Katy Price, the 17-year-old trombonist, or Sam Walton, the 18-year-old percussionist. The unfortunate fact is that in a depressingly uninteresting work like Gordon Jacob's

BBC Young
Musician Final
Birmingham/BBC2

Trombone Concerto or even Richard Rodney Bennett's Percussion Concerto, which is resourceful but inevitably limited in its scoring for mainly unpitched instruments, it is scarcely possible to tell what kind of musician the soloist is. Rafal Payne left some questions unanswered in Khachaturian's Violin Concerto. But he did respond to the inspiration and charm of the work and he negotiated the many technical problems with remarkable aplomb.

The violinist might not have been so far ahead of the other

concerto finalists if the adjudication in all sections had been as perceptive as it was for the string players. The television programmes on BBC2 last week devoted to the instrumental finals were necessarily selective but there seemed to be some particularly promising material among the pianists and the woodwind players. The piano finalist, Julien Chériyan, gave a thoughtful performance of the Grieg concerto but it was just too big for him. Mozart's Bassoon Concerto was similarly undercharacterised by Benjamin Hudson.

All the finalists were accompanied with professional efficiency by the National Youth Orchestra under Ivor Bolton.

GERALD LARNER

Boulez strikes a new chord with Mahler

Vienna PO/Boulez
LPO/Rozhdestvensky
Festival Hall

PIERRE BOULEZ is a man of constant surprises. After three decades (1962-92) in which he and the Vienna Philharmonic made no music together, he has begun a new relationship with the orchestra. He has also begun a fresh relationship with Mahler: his interpretation of the Sixth Symphony was released last year, the Seventh is due out in May, and on Sunday he unveiled his thoughts on the Fifth.

It was an intriguing mix: the most voluptuous orchestra under the most cerebral conductor in some of the most neurotic music ever composed. But is Mahler's emotional universe necessarily defined by neurosis? This was only one question posed by Boulez.

He began with a funeral march whose tread suggested not grim determination but self-awareness: a journey undertaken in pensive mood. But if there was not overt emotionalism, there was in its place a complex of finely calibrated tensions. And, most revelatory of all, was the new light in which Mahler's textures emerged. With solo instruments perfectly balanced, wind choirs harmoniously

blended, and strings capable of infinite shadings, one did not know which to admire more: the musicians' virtuosity or the conductor's impeccable ear.

An overwhelming brass-topped climax aside, the second movement was notable less for a generalised "stormy", "vehement" character (the score markings) than for another, skilfully plotted structure of cumulative energies. Most radical of all were the third and fourth movements. The Scherzo lacked the earthy vulgarity usually considered *de rigueur*, while the elegance of the waltz-like Trio was enough to cause one to harbour the bizarre fantasy of Boulez leading the Viennese at one of their new year's concerts.

Instead of adopting the now fashionable faster tempo in the Adagio too, Boulez lingered over every phrase. Yet there was no trace of sentimentality; rather a miraculously controlled contemplation of infinity. It took us time to come to terms with Boulez's Wagner in the Sixties. Now, 30 years on, he is

challenging us with an unconventional approach to Mahler.

A few weeks ago, Mark Elder and the BBC Symphony Orchestra showed us that the idealistic young Shostakovich could respond with enthusiasm to texts celebrating "October, the Commune and Lenin" in his choral Second Symphony. Last Thursday, Gennadi Rozhdestvensky and the London Philharmonic forced us to consider the possibility that even as late as 1961 Shostakovich might have been prepared to celebrate the Russian Revolution in a Utopian spirit.

The work was the Twelfth Symphony, subtitled "The Year 1917", and dedicated to Lenin's memory. Certainly the symphony evokes revolutionary ferment. It also has an undeniably idealistic strain running through it. On the other hand, the composer's son, Maxim, has spoken of the music's universal message (revolutionary struggle as a constant feature of history) and his widow, Irina, has suggested that he wished to describe

Pushkin's vision of an ideal ruler. Whatever the truth, Rozhdestvensky's full-blooded performance hinted at no ironies. The Utopianism was moving, and even the triumphal peroration, which can sound hollow, drew a vociferous response from the audience.

Before the interval, a different Russian soul was bared. Dmitri Alexeev and Rozhdestvensky launched the initial variations of Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* with taut, muscular rhythms. Together pianist and conductor charted a journey through the flatter keys to the more mellow, emotional territory at the work's heart. When they reached the famous 18th variation, passion was held in check until it could be contained no longer. The performance ended with a typical Rozhdestvensky gesture. For the work's throwaway ending he turned to the audience, throwing his arms in the air as though blowing a kiss. Good theatre, but also superb music-making.

BARRY MILLINGTON

POP

Pearls in the treacle

THERE is an aura of mystery surrounding Heather Nova which does not always work to her advantage. Her third album, *Oyster*, has quietly sold 400,000 copies since it was released at the end of 1994. But despite receiving a measure of critical approval, her media profile remains much lower than such a sales figure would suggest, especially given her obviously photogenic looks.

Born in Bermuda in 1967, the singer and songwriter has taken a musical tack that is somewhat out of sync with the prevailing trend for mainstream artists, such as Alanis Morissette, Garbage and Sheryl Crow, who favour a firm, even aggressive delivery.

On stage at ULU, Nova and her four-piece band were bathed in gloomy washes of colour and constantly revolving patterns reminiscent of the psychedelic lightshows invented in clubs such as the Middle Earth in the Sixties. "You

Heather Nova
ULU, WC2

know that dream when your feet won't move, you want to come but your body won't let you?" she sang in *Island*, a harrowing song about the effects of domestic violence. The trouble was that Nova's whole show was a bit like that — dreamy and ethereal, but at times like wading through a vat of dark treacle.

Her voice was extraordinary — delicately soaring and dipping like birdsong and producing an effect not unlike the squeaking of dolphins during the coda of *Blue Black*. Her four-piece band, which featured the melancholy cello playing of Nadia Lannan and the wispy distortions of a guitarist called Bic, provided the sort of heavily textured rock sound that was much in favour during the shoegazing era. The effect, especially on slower numbers such as *Heat*, was somewhere between classic Cocteau Twins and the Cranberries in Mogadon.

Accompanied only by cello and her own guitar, Nova sang Neil Young's *Like a Hurricane* as if her life depended on it. But even during such moments of passion, she remained self-contained and introverted, as if addressing the song to her own inner being as opposed to the audience who had paid to hear it.

The fragile beauty of *Walk This World, Maybe an Angel* and the new single, *Truth and Bone*, brought out the best in both Nova and her band, while a solo acoustic sequence of "encores" underlined her ear for a tune. But a little more projection and punch would not go amiss if she is now to build on the sturdy foundations laid down by *Oyster*.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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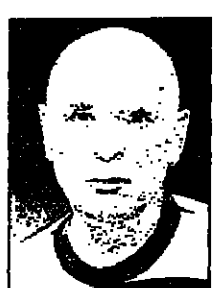


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CHOICE 1
The best of Ken Campbell: bizarre fun from the manic one
VENUE: This week at Watermans Arts Centre



CHOICE 2
Donald Sinden returns to the stage in *That Good Night*
VENUE: At the Yvonne Arnaud, Guildford

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSICAL
Chequered career: the musical *Chess* is back on the British stage, but is it any better?



OPERA
Morley College bravely mounts a staging of Malcolm Williamson's *English Eccentrics*

LONDON

CHOICE CHUNKS Ken Campbell gives an evening of excerpts from his subtly bizarre, rambling, capricious solo shows. A liberating experience. *Watermans Arts Centre, High Street, Bedford* (0181-568 1176). Preview tonight and opens tomorrow, 7.30pm. Thurs-Sat, 7.30pm. Unit Apr 13.

MUSIC AT THE SOUTH BANK Valentin Gidon Krieger starts the evening at the Festival Hall, giving the Philharmonia Orchestra for a programme of Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky and Scriabin. Christoph Eschenbach conducts. Meanwhile the excellent period instrument Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment performs Bach's *Caritas No 1735* and 201, at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. *Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1* (0171-930 4242). Fri, 7.30pm. QEH, 7.45pm.

A WEEK'S WORTH The Almeida offers up a real treat this week, a series of solo performances by three superb actors. In the first, *Three Men on a Boat*, a portrait of Edith Piaf. Then *Three Men on a Boat*, a portrait of Edith Piaf. Then *Three Men on a Boat*, a portrait of Edith Piaf. *Almeida, Almeida Street, W1* (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm. Thurs-Sat, 8pm. Preview Apr 2 and 4, 8pm. Sat, 8pm.

COMPANIES Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sarah Thompson in an excellent staging of *Three Men on a Boat*. *Almeida, Almeida Street, W1* (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm. Thurs-Sat, 8pm.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) The RSC's reduced Shakespeare Company's popular poetry rough handling of the Bard. *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*. *Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6* (0171-741 2311). Preview tonight.

LA LOUCE VITA New David Glass production. *Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6* (0171-741 2311). Preview tonight.

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TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

BAGNOR Opening night for Helen Ryan and Al Matthews as gruff tyrant when Ralph's son arrives unexpectedly with his latest girlfriend in low Edward. *Yvonne Arnaud, Guildford* (01483 440000). Mon-Thurs, 7.45pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm, Mon-Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm. Unit Apr 13.

GLASGOW Scottish Opera has secured the fine French soprano Isabelle Vernet for the title role of *Aida*. *Scottish Opera, Glasgow* (0141 222 2222).

GUILDFOUR Donald Sinden returns to the stage for the premiere of N.J. Clegg's *That Good Night*. *Yvonne Arnaud, Guildford* (01483 440000).

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Soft-core pawns end in stalemate

Ten years after it first opened, *Chess* is trying for a comeback, having been reworked during its travels round the world. This production, staged by the choreographer Anthony van Laast, is touring the UK. Chess was the creation of a big-shot collaboration: Tim Rice joined forces with Anderson and Ulvaeus, Abba's Benny and Bjorn. The result, however, was chequered: a hit-and-miss musical.

The story is the main problem. Two Grand Masters get embroiled in a sketchy love triangle while squaring up in a tournament which is, in turn, becoming confused to put it mildly with political moves between America and the Soviet Union. At the first championship, the Russian Sergievsky wins the match and the heart of Trumper's woman, our Anglo-Hungarian heroine Florence Vassy (Jacqui Scott, who shines). Sergievsky (Maurice Clarke) smartly defects to the West.

We jump to the next year, in Thailand (where one can sing to a different tune). Trumper (Bogdan Kominowski) turns up, not playing chess but apparently in cahoots with a TV commentator who must be something to do with the CIA. Mrs Sergievsky materialises, vaguely tied up with the KGB and Sergievsky's second, Molokov (Nicholas Pound). Suddenly Sergievsky is heading back East, leaving Florence to ensure the release of her hitherto irrelevant father. These Cold War manoeuvres remain scrambled, and now they look out of date as well.

THEATRE
Chess
Orchard, Dartford

However, Rice's lyrics aren't bad, supplying some nice tongue-in-cheek internal rhymes. The closing message, that you cannot rely on relationships, unfortunately resists the upbeat. The opening also offers a bit of a surprise, kicking off with an encyclopaedic history of the board game, set to a tune. This musical may aspire to seriousness in its echoes of Tchaikovsky and Russian choirs, but ultimately does so only superficially. The company's performance is polished. Robin Wagner's design, like a great glass box, lit by Ross Corbett, is less gaudy than many a musical set. A ghostly choir sings in potent harmony in the half-light. But tackiness will seep in. They move on to the chessboard floor, which lights up and starts spinning and tilting.

The Streets of Bangkok, the red-light number, falls flat. Kominowski strains vocally and *Pity the Child*, the bull's bawling solo about his wretched formative years, is a preposterous insert. Still, Benny and Bjorn do score several hits en route: *I Know Him So Well*, the ladies' double love song; the emotional swell of *Someone Else's Story*; and the climactic final blast of *Nobody's Side*.

KATE BASSETT



Your move: Nicholas Pound and Maurice Clarke in the touring *Chess*

OPERA: Coherent dramatic statement from a group of oddballs; victorious evening from AD 9

Encore for loony tunes

English Eccentrics
Morley College

MALCOLM WILLIAMSON certainly didn't fit into the fiercely modernist 1960s. He would insist on writing horrible things called "tunes", and composing in a tonal musical language derived — or so critics at the time thought — from idioms as diverse as those of the Richards Strauss and Rodgers. With the vantage of hindsight, Poulenc and Ibert might be closer to the mark, but his style is too personal for such pat pigeonholing.

English Eccentrics was first performed at the 1964 Aldeburgh Festival in tandem with Britten's *Curlew River*. Geoffrey Dunn's clever libretto takes a gallery of oddballs from Edith Sitwell's study of the same name, and welds their eccentricities into coherent dramatic statement way beyond the "opera-revue" that the material initially suggests. Musically, the two short acts have purposeful shape, moving from farce that does not preclude compassion to pathos. The first shows Sarah Whitehead haunting the Bank of England, whom she believes respon-

Triumph out of failure

Arminio
Britten Theatre

A CRITIC should never overdo the homework. When contemplating Handel's *Arminio*, I turned up a tome or two to discover that I had let myself in for one of "Handel's greatest operatic failures". But anyone who dared to visit the Royal College of Music last week may not have been altogether disappointed.

Arminio is Hermann, the German tribal chief who fought against Roman occupation in AD 9 and thereby helped to halt the expansionist policy of Augustus. Plenty of conflict between the ties of blood and love. And human nature ensures that there can be a contemporary subtext to fit any and every period: the producer, Olivia Fuchs, is to be congratulated for not setting it all in Chichester.

As it is, the Germano-Celts wear vegetable-dyed natural fabrics, while the Romans are the ones with navy greatcoats and guns. With Andrea Carr's sets relying on the cracked backdrop and the tilting pillar, the delights of the evening tended to be

Triumph out of failure

Arminio
Britten Theatre

almost exclusively for the ear. And these were considerable. The last act duet of Arminio and Turselunda, his wife, is a duet in an austere crown, a score which the 4th Earl of Shaftesbury remarked at its premiere in 1737 is "rather grave, but correct and labour in the highest degree".

Dennis Darlow, conducting the period instruments of the London Handel Schools' Vocal Faculty (this was a co-presentation with the London Handel Society) were put through some pretty rigorous paces. Arminio himself and his brother-in-law, Sigismund, have most of the best tunes: the mellifluous American counter-tenor, Lawrence Zazzo, acquitted himself with valour in some truly tortuous arias, and Jeni Bern's boyish soprano brought tender, highly musical phrasing to a role torn between love, friendship, duty and simply concentrating on the notes.

Richard Morrison (not ours) was impressive as the dastardly collaborator, Segeste, James Rutherford a powerful, double-taking Tullio. Kathryn Turpin's mezzo lashed out as Arminio's sister Ramise, and Franziska Whelan held centre stage as Arminio's valiant wife Turselunda, her soprano lustrous, unflagging and destined for certain victory.

HILARY FINCH

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

COLUMBIA 0171 632 0300 (24hr)
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Tues 7.30 TOMCA

THEATRES

ALBANY 399 1730/344 444
420 000 (no bag fee) 312 1992/344
444 Gps 413 3321/312 1992/344
444 Gps 413 3321/312 1992/344

BEST MUSICAL

CRITICS' CIRCLE AWARD 96
BEST ACTRESS
ADRIAN LESTER
BEST ACTRESS
SHEILA GISH
BEST DIRECTOR
SAM MENDES
OLIVER AWARDS 1996
COMPANY
by Stephen Sondheim
& George Furth
Mon-Sat 7.45, Wed-Sat 3.00

PRESENT LAUGHTER

"VINTAGE COWARD" M on Sun
"THIS STYLISHLY MOUNTED
PRODUCTION - BIRKE COMES
TRAM MOST OF HIS

APOLLO LABRATS

HAMMERSMITH 416 0000 (no bag fee)
4444 Gps 413 3321/312 1992/344
444 Gps 413 3321/312 1992/344

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by Jimmy Murphy
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EXTRA 15-TERM MATINEES
APRIL 4 & 11
Shakespeare returns 15 May

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"Gloriously eccentric" T.O.L.
FORTUNE 8

Couples denies Scot by taking full advantage of a stroke of good luck

Montgomerie can profit from major change of fortune

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN PONTEVEDRA BEACH

COLIN MONTGOMERIE might have been celebrating his first success in a tournament in the United States here on Sunday but for a semi-circular piece of wood as wide as a man's hand.

You could argue that it was because of the part played by this piece of timber that Montgomerie had to be content with coming second in a tournament on the US PGA Tour for the third time in 22 months.

The Players' Championship was bubbling up to a fine conclusion when Fred Couples came to the 16th, 15 under par and trailing Montgomerie and Tommy Tolles, the 54-hole leader, by one stroke. Destiny was about to tap Couples on the shoulder and compensate him for missing an embarrassingly short putt of less than two feet on the 11th by allowing him to win this tournament.

His second shot, with a two-iron, flew out towards the water that guards the right-hand side of this green where, shoring up the watery side of the putting surface, are wooden bulkheads.

By a stroke of luck, Couples's shot did not end in the water but landed on a bulkhead and took a big leap forward onto the green. From there, he sank the putt for an eagle to jump to 17 under and into a one-stroke lead.

These two were the first of the significant strokes that would determine who would win the first-place cheque of \$420,000. The next involved Montgomerie, barely five minutes later. Europe's leading money-winner these past three years, having had the lead snatched from him, knew he had to pull out something special on this same hole, which was just about within his reach in two strokes.

His second shot, hit with his metal three-wood from 230 yards out, drifted away from the flag, which was positioned no more than six paces from the edge of the green, until it plopped into the water that guards the right-hand side of this green where, shoring up the watery side of the putting surface, are wooden bulkheads.

The next moment of significance involved Montgomerie on the 16th and Couples just a couple of hundred yards away on the near-island green of the 17th. Couples sank a putt for a birdie and Montgomerie took a bogey six. Knowing then that he could not catch Couples, Montgomerie dropped another stroke on the last. Couples had covered his last seven holes in four under par, Montgomerie and Tolles in one over par.

Finishing as joint runner-up will hardly have lessened Montgomerie's self-belief when he competes in the Bell South tournament in Atlanta this week before driving up to Augusta, Georgia, next week for the Masters.

"Coming second here is a confidence boost," he said. "I was going for a 66 and yet that still would not have won, so you have got to say well done to Freddie for going out and taking a 64. I had got into a position to win, but unfortunately I did not take it."

After the US PGA Championship last year, when Montgomerie lost a play-off to Steve Elkington, and bearing in mind his performance in losing the 1994 US Open only over 18 extra holes, I predicted it would only be a matter of time before he won a major championship. That applies even more today. In two tournaments this year, Montgomerie is 32 under par for his eight rounds and richer by \$300,000.

There is no apparent weakness in his game and I would not be surprised to see him win in Atlanta this week or at Augusta next week — or both.

He improves every time you see him and Johnny Miller, a former Open champion, said on television that he expected Montgomerie to be the best player in the world by the end of the year.



Montgomerie is striking the ball so well that he is 32 under par for eight rounds

SPORT IN BRIEF

Waqar delighted to see back of Lamb

WAQAR YOUNIS, the Pakistan fast bowler, yesterday declared that Allan Lamb's retirement was good for cricket. "He is the kind of man who always wants to create controversies," Waqar said. Lamb, whose autobiography is to be published this summer, refused to submit it for scrutiny by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), as he would have to do if he signed a new contract with Northamptonshire, who had granted him a testimonial.

Lamb's book is expected to revive the ball-tampering allegations he levelled against the Pakistan bowlers in 1992, for which he was fined £5,000 by the TCCB. "If I continue to play cricket, they will have the power to prevent me telling my story. And I have no doubt that they would use that power," he said. Lamb played 79 Tests for England between 1982 and 1992 and captained Northamptonshire from 1989 until the end of last season.

Flames on slow burner

ICE HOCKEY: Guildford Flames announced yesterday that they will not take part in the super league that is scheduled to start in the autumn. The Flames say they cannot get together a good enough team in time and have asked if they can delay their entry for a year. This leaves six teams in the new competition, of which only Sheffield Steelers and Manchester Storm have an arena of the requisite size and Durham Wasps do not have a home at all.

Hall sets sights high

BADMINTON: Darren Hall's ambitions extend far beyond his challenge for a record eighth English national title, which starts today in Norwich against Tom Gooden, of Hertfordshire. Hall, 30, plans to use the nationals as a springboard for the European championships and the Olympics. "There's no reason why I can't win the national title and take European and Olympic medals," he said. "I have been in tremendous form for the last six weeks."

Moving date for Regan

BOXING: Robbie Regan, of Wales, is to meet Daniel Jimenez, of Puerto Rico, for the World Boxing Organisation bantamweight title in Cardiff on April 26. The contest will mark a move up the weights for Regan, the former European flyweight champion. "I have had a bit of trouble in making flyweight recently," Regan said. He is also stepping up in class against Jimenez, who lists Drew Docherty and Alfred Kotey among his recent victims.

Cold comfort for Scots

CURLING: Scotland's hopes of a third men's world championship title were dashed in Hamilton, Ontario, yesterday when Canada beat them 6-2 in the final. The team from Perth, led by Warwick Smith, fielded three of the 1991 world championship rink in David Smith, Peter Smith and David Hay, but the Canadians were more than a match for such experienced opposition, sealing the title with a single on the ninth end.

Diplomat bagged

REAL TENNIS: Julian Snow, of Britain, the world's leading amateur, and his partner, the veteran American, Sam Howe, reached the final of the British National doubles championship by beating the fourth seeds, Andrew Page and Mark Howard, for the loss of four games at Moreton Morrell. Page, recently returned from diplomatic duty in Kiev, looked short of match practice whereas Snow and Howe played almost error-free tennis.

Sheehan enjoys that floating feeling again

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES
IN MISSION HILLS
CALIFORNIA



Sheehan, exuberant

PATTY SHEEHAN, an exuberant being, used to believe she could walk on water. The last time she was at St Pierre, in Chesapeake, for the 1980 Curtis Cup, was just such an occasion. She won all four of her matches and her feet barely touched the ground.

Sheehan, now 39 and aware of her limitations, should certainly be at St Pierre again for the Solheim Cup in September after a thrilling victory in the 25th Nabisco Dinah Shore here on

Sunday. It was the stocky American's sixth major championship but her first Dinah.

To win, Sheehan had to par the 526-yard 18th, having had her sixth birdie of a topsy-turvy day at the 171-yard 17th. She had five bogeys and, as she stood on the tee, seven players were still in with a chance of the title. It was a task that proved beyond Annika Sorenstam and Kelly Robbins, who finished on 282, six under par, alongside Meg Mallon.

After a long wait, Sheehan nearly pulled her three-wood off the tee into the water. Among those who had

delayed her was Laura Davies, on her way to an uninspired 75 and a share of fifteenth place. Davies launched her three-wood onto the island green but took three more to get down — a contrast to the euphoria of the third round when she had hit a three-iron to ten feet for an eagle three. Sheehan put her second shot into a bunker and then hit a nine-iron "dead left".

The ball was on the green but Sheehan, who had three-putted four times already, now had to get down in two putts from what was 120 feet on Sunday but will probably be at least 150 by tomorrow. "A monster," she

called it. She rolled her first putt to within ten feet — "a very good putt," she said — and the next was even better. Sheehan was so sure the ball was in that she started leaping like a dervish before it disappeared. She then did a somersault, which she dedicated to her mother. She dedicated the victory to her father, who has not been well recently.

The crowd demanded the now traditional leap into the lake but Sheehan made do with a gentle wade, clutching the trophy and trying to ensure the cheque for \$135,000 (£89,000) did not get wet.

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

UEFA Cup

Stavros Pappas v Borussia Dortmund (7.15)

English Insurance League

First division

Barnsley v Notts (7.45)

Barnsley v Notts (7.45)

Cheltenham v Gloucester (7.45)

Cheltenham v Gloucester (7.45)

Huddersfield v Reading (7.45)

Reading v Derby (7.45)

Oxford v Gillingham (7.45)

Sheff Wed v Southend (7.45)

Worcester v Millwall (7.45)

Worcester v Millwall (7.45)

Worcester v Millwall (7.45)

Second division

Brentford v Stockport (7.45)

Brentford v Stockport (7.45)

Brentford v Stockport (7.45)

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Brentford v Stockport (7.45)

Brentford v Stockport (7.45)

WELSH LEAGUE

Premier division

Swansea v Peterborough (7.45)

Walsall v Wycombe (7.45)

York v Shrewsbury

Third division

Barnet v Cardiff (7.45)

Bury v Fulham

Cardiff v Wrexham (7.45)

Chester v Leyton Orient

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York v Shrewsbury

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Dealer East N/S game with +60 partscore

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: ace of diamonds

There were several dubious bids in this auction, typical of what happens when one side is trying to prevent the other side from converting the trump part-score. Had North-South judged to defend they would have been assured of a plus score. West led the ace of diamonds and switched to a trump, declarer winning with dummy's ace. A small club was led, and East judged well to pop up with the king to play another trump. South won in hand and ruffed a club, but what now? Can you see a legitimate way of making the contract?

Declarer played a small spade from dummy and East destroyed his previous good efforts by contributing the jack. Declarer ruffed and drew trumps. East's hand was now clear — he had shown up with four hearts and two clubs. If he had had five spades he presumably would have doubled North's Two Spades, so it seemed likely that he was 4-4-3-2; his 2NT bid marked him with the king of spades. So declarer continued by cashing the king and queen of diamonds. He then exited with the queen of spades. East was end-played — he had to give dummy the last two tricks.

The final rounds of the Premier League were played at the weekend. As expected the 1st division was won in convincing style by Paul Hackett's team (Monahan, Hackett, Hackett, Forrester, Robson). The 2nd division saw a tie for first place between Derek Patterson (Whittaker, Collins, Jones) and Michelle Brunner (Holland, Hirst, Hassett, Banks, Pomfrey). The tie was split, on aggregate IMPs, in favour of Patterson. The first placed team only is guaranteed promotion to the 1st division next season.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

BCF protest

The British Chess Federation has protested, via the European Chess Union, to the world federation about the proposed Fide world championship match between Kamsky and Karpov in Baghdad. In a letter to the European Chess Union, president, Professor Kurt Jungwirth, they say: "We support the demand for a special meeting of the European Chess Federations to consider the matter and we urge you to convene such a meeting in the very near future."

Kasparov leads

Garry Kasparov shares the lead with Veselin Topalov, of Bulgaria, with one round to go in Amsterdam. In round seven he defeated the Russian Vladimir Kramnik.

White Garry Kasparov

Black: Vladimir Kramnik

Amsterdam, March 1996

Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5

2 Nf3 d5

3 Nc3 Nc6

4 d4 cxd4

5 Nxd4 Nf6

6 Bg5 Nd7

7 Qd2 Be7

8 0-0-0 Nxd4

9 Qxd4 a6

10 Bb5 b6

11 Bb6 c6

12 Bc3 Qc7

13 Qc3 Qc5

14 Qg3 b4

15 Nc2 a5

16 Nc3 Nc6

17 Qh3 h5

18 Rc1 d5

19 exd5 Qxd5

20 Bb1 Rf8

21 Rf1 Qe6

22 N4 Qe6

23 Q3 e5

24 Nd5 Bc8

25 Bc4 Qc5

26 c3 Nc3

27 Rc3 Qd6

28 Rc1 Bb6

29 Nb6 Qxb6

30 Rc2 Kf7

31 Qc3 Kf6

32 Rd2 Qb7

33 Rc3 Qb7

34 Rc3 Rf8

Black resigns

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

POOL TABLE

SECOND DIVISION

21 Brentford v Oxford

22 Brentford v Oxford

23 Brentford v Oxford

24 Brentford v Oxford

25 Brentford v Oxford

26 Brentford v Oxford

27 Brentford v Oxford

28 Brentford v Oxford

29 Brentford v Oxford

30 Brentford v Oxford

THIRD DIVISION

31 Brentford v Oxford

32 Brentford v Oxford

33 Brentford v Oxford

34 Brentford v Oxford

35 Brentford v Oxford

36 Brentford v Oxford

37 Brentford v Oxford

38 Brentford v Oxford

39 Brentford v Oxford

40 Brentford v Oxford

FOURTH DIVISION

41 Brentford v Oxford

42 Brentford v Oxford

43 Brentford v Oxford

44 Brentford v Oxford

45 Brentford v Oxford

46 Brentford v Oxford

47 Brentford v Oxford

48 Brentford v Oxford

49 Brentford v Oxford

50 Brentford v Oxford

SNOW REPORTS

Depth (cm) Conditions Runs to resort Weather (5pm) Last snow

AUSTRIA

Obertauern 20 80 good varied good first line 4 30/3

St Anton 20 80 good varied good first line 6 30/3

FRANCE

Les Arcs 45 190 good heavy slushy cloud 5 1/4

Avoriaz 110 130 good varied snow 7 1/4

Chamonix 220 220 good varied snow 4 1/4

Flaine 35 240 good varied fair snow 2 1/4

La Plagne 90 195 fair varied snow no crowds 1 27/3

ITALY

Bormio 0 140 fair varied closed cloud 2 23/3

SWITZERLAND

Ardez 50 50 fair varied fair fair 1 30/3

C Montana 0 200 good powder good patchy 1 1/4

Verbier 10 170 good varied fair snow 3 1/4

Wengen 10 40 good varied closed snow 4 1/4

WINNING MOVE

By Philip Howard

JOSKIN

a. An ecclesiastical vestment

b. A clown

c. A kangaroo pet

JUNCO

a. An old card game

b. An Australian drug addict

c. A snow bird

JOBBERNOWL

a. A bird of ill omen

b. A doll

c. A Hanseatic mercenary

JERKINHEAD

a. A cranial tic

b. A gable

c. An attached hood

Answers on page 46

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

UEFA Cup

Stavros Pappas v Borussia Dortmund (7.15)

English Insurance League

First division

Barnsley v Notts (7.45)

Barnsley v Notts (7.45)

Cheltenham v Gloucester (7.45)

Cheltenham v Gloucester (7.45)

Huddersfield v Reading (7.45)

Reading v Derby (7.45)

Oxford v Gillingham (7.45)

Sheff Wed v Southend (7.45)

Worcester v Millwall (7.45)

Worcester v Millwall (7.45)

Worcester v Millwall (7.45)

Second division

Brentford v Stockport (7.45)

Brentford v Stockport (7.45)

Brentford v Stockport (7.45)

Brentford v Stockport (7.45)

Brentford v Stockport (7.45)

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WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is a variation from the game Nimzowitsch — Alekhine, Vilna 1912. This is an example of a trap Alekhine avoided. The black king is unable to move, having been caught in the crossfire of the white bishops. How could White now increase the pressure with a fine combination?

Solution on page 46

Australian with attitude continues to prove the bane of sport's authorities

Squash rebel still courting controversy

BY ANDREW LONGMORE

ANTHONY HILL had already pigeon-holed the referee for his first-round match in the Leekes British Open squash championships yesterday. "He'll be over 50, for starters."

And, if Hill is to be believed, the official would come to the court bearing at best an irrational dislike of the young Australian, at worst a personal animosity to eliminate him from the game forever. A morning in the company of the John McEnroe of squash can severely distort reality.

The official line is that Hill, 26, is suffering from a psychotic disorder brought on by the sight of an opponent and a squash court. Hill believes he is no more than a "smartarse".

Somewhere in the Grand Canyon of the generation gap lies the truth, and a disciplinary record so outrageous that McEnroe would probably want to frame it for his New York art gallery.

Hill's five-game victory over Johnathan Power, of Canada, in Cardiff yesterday marked his return from a three-month

suspension imposed by the Professional Squash Association (PSA). He is also banned from the world team championships and the World Cup for the next two years and, subject to appeal, has been banned by his own federation until the turn of the millennium.

His misdemeanours range from simple abuse of referees to baiting opponents, racket-throwing and spitting. He has made the narrow line between gamesmanship and cheating his own personal thoroughfare.

What everyone agrees is that, away from the court, Hill is as likeable a bloke as one could wish to meet. He is also a better player than his world ranking of eight, and the darling of sponsors desperate for publicity.

Hill's rebel tendencies can be traced to the final of the Victorian under-13 championships. Hill was 12, his opponent was a friend, and a trip to Queensland was at stake. The referee had to part the pair after one point. Hill won and

went to Brisbane. But it was a head-butting incident with the Pakistani player, Mir Zaman Gul, two years ago at the British Open, that brought Hill to prominence.

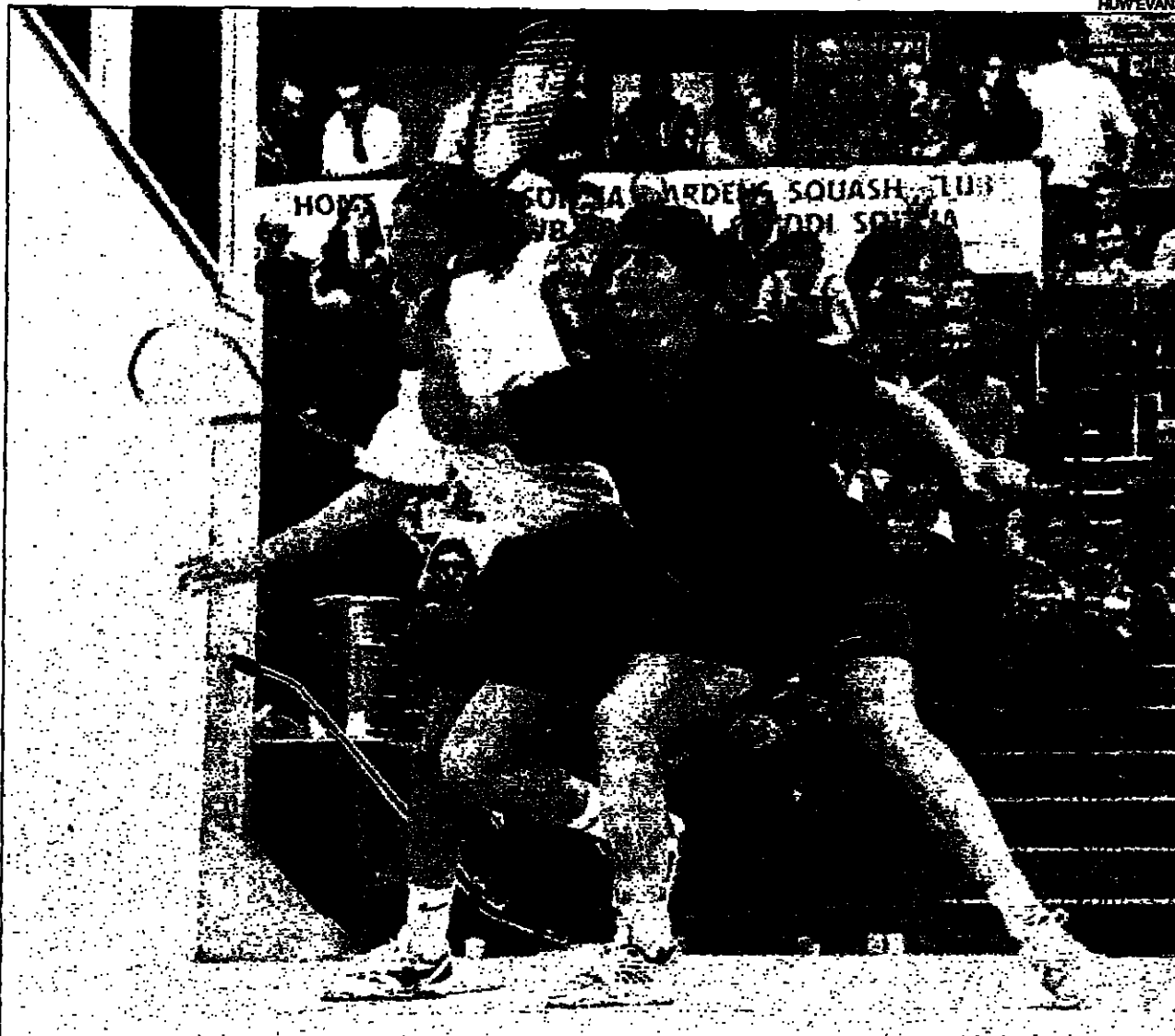
Hill was actually the victim of the butt, and Zaman was banned for six months, but a feud was born which surfaced again at the world team championships last year, and a five-year national suspension for Hill resulted.

"I don't go out looking for trouble," he said. "Once on court, I'm just like everyone else going to work. I don't cheat, but there is a fine line before what you're doing is wrong. Everybody uses some form of gamesmanship and, contrary to what people say, I'm always in control. I have to argue a bit because I'm not as fit as some of these guys."

Hill likes to see himself as a crusader for his sport against the muddling of the PSA. An automatic year-long ban, which is just a stray swear-word away, would not hurt him unduly, he claims, because exhibition and league events are his bread-and-butter, not the rickety PSA tour. "If I was earning \$100,000 from the PSA it might be worth seeing a sports psychologist to straighten myself out, but I'm not," Hill said. "They're make-believe people and they need me whether they like it or not."

Hill's narrow victory yesterday was more theatre than sport. Almost every point ended in supplication, but the players were united in friendship. Wisely, the officials fed the humour rather than jumping on it. Power was smarter and funnier, the more appealing character in every sense. Hill threw away six points in a sulky end to the fourth game, but sneaked the fifth. The match ended in an appeal and a handshake, the explosion delayed for another day.

Hill says that he must get together with the authorities sooner rather than later to sort out the mess. They need each other more than either party might realise. Hill might have to accept he can be wrong. He was wrong about Dean Clayton, the referee, on two counts yesterday. He is 46 and did a good job.



Hill, left, on his way to a first-round victory over Power in the Leekes British Open championships yesterday

Rowland rues lack of protection

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

SPECTATORS at the first round of the Leekes British Open championships were delighted to find Rodney Eyles, the No 2 seed, fighting for survival yesterday against his talented young Australian compatriot, Craig Rowland. But Rowland, the world No 12, was less than enthralled with the new Professional Squash Association (PSA) seedings rule that produced such a high-profile encounter so early in the event.

Eyles won 11-15, 15-11, 15-14, 13-15, 15-5 in 87 minutes at the Welsh Institute of Sport in

Cardiff and looked as much relieved as satisfied to have done so. Rowland, who reached the semi-finals of the world open championship in November, was just one rally away from a 2-1 lead that might have proved too tall an order for Eyles.

The PSA decided after the world open to begin seeding only eight players, leaving 10 players such as Rowland, who would previously have been afforded some initial protection, at the mercy of the random draw. A few more first rounds like this and Rowland, along with other young players who have

steadily climbed the rankings, could find himself perilously disconnected from the sport's leading players.

"I actually voted for this change," Rowland said yesterday. "Everyone seemed in favour and it looked as if it could make earlier rounds more exciting. Later, I began thinking about how it could affect me and it could be very destructive. There is a growing feeling against this rule. I think we will have to have a special PSA meeting here in Cardiff to get rid of it."

Eyles goes through to the second round on the all-transparent Perspex show

court against Graham Ryding, of Canada, at the Cardiff International Arena tomorrow, with the possibility of a quarter-final on Friday against Anthony Hill.

In the women's championship, Suzanne Horner, the British national champion, progressed without problems to meet Claire Nichol, of South Africa, in the second round. Michelle Martin, the Australian defending champion, stormed through in just 21 minutes against Angelique Clifton-Parks, another South African, and now meets Robyn Cooper, her young compatriot.

Hill proceeds with caution

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN SAO PAULO

DAMON HILL departed from his self-imposed rules and let complacency sink in for a few hours on Sunday night. After a hotel dinner of chicken and chips and a couple of glasses of champagne to celebrate his crushing victory in the Brazilian Grand Prix, he and his wife, Georgie, set off for a coastal resort without confirming their reservation. Five hours and a couple of grand-prix distances later, they were back in São Paulo; no room at the inn.

It was the first time Hill had taken anything for granted all day. Even after his victory, hard on the heels of success in Melbourne, had taken him 14 points clear in the drivers' championship and gave him the appearance of invincibility even at this early stage of the season, he refused to get carried away.

He allowed himself to talk about the possibility of three, even four, successive wins, but that was as far as it went. The rest was caution and modesty personified, allied to warnings that Benetton and Ferrari could still come back at him.

The fact is, though, that Michael Schumacher's challenge will be a pale imitation of last year's as he fights to keep his head above water at Ferrari. At Benetton, Jean Alesi and Gerhard Berger are struggling to provide the metronomic brilliance that was

Schumacher's trademark and the team is in a trauma trying to adjust to drivers who make mistakes.

In addition, Jacques Villeneuve, Hill's Williams-Renault team-mate and the man who will probably be his strongest challenger, showed all weekend that he will be at a disadvantage on the circuits with which he is not familiar. Finally, and perhaps most important, Hill is a changed man, growing in stature all the time as Schumacher seems to be shrinking under the weight of responsibility at Ferrari.

In a similar position, Nigel Mansell might have been induced to indulge in a little sabre-rattling, a bit of self-promotion. It was put to Hill that he might be feeling invincible after driving out some of the demons of last year by lapping Schumacher

during the race on Sunday. He did not fall for that one.

"If I get the chance to rub it in, then I will," Hill said. "Lapping Michael brought a wry smile to my face but that was about it. There is still a long way to go and even if we are looking good at the moment, I am as much in competition with myself as I am with anybody else."

Suddenly, though, Hill has crept silently and unobtrusively into a position where he can launch his own assault on the pantheon of his sport. The win on Sunday took him beyond the total of 14 victories claimed by his late father, Graham, and into fifth place on the list of wins by British drivers.

Only Mansell with 31, Jackie Stewart with 27, Jim Clark with 25 and Stirling Moss with 16 have won more and Hill has a better win-per-start ratio than all of them bar Clark, better than Alain Prost's, better than Ayrton Senna's. Typically, Hill cannot quite believe that he is up there with the rest of them.

"It feels great," he said. "I am an enormous admirer of all the great racing drivers. I find it difficult to associate myself with those people even though I know that statistics are one of the things by which drivers are judged."

The final proving ground, the ultimate statistic of a world championship, appears to be there for the taking.



Hill: modest approach

Barclays Bank PLC

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<i>Quarterly income option</i>			
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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 43

JOSKIN

(a) A country bumpkin. A laborious pun on the countryman's dialect for to bump + kin. "The best thing she could do was to go back and marry the joskin that followed the plough."

JUNCO

(c) The name of a North American genus of Finches, the Snow-birds. From the Spanish *juncos* one. Latin *juncus* a rush. "Birds which had been isolated might be presumed to have acquired some slight but real idiosyncrasy of voice and language. But if this is true of the Carolina junco, I failed to satisfy myself of the fact."

JOBBERNOWL

(b) A blockish or stupid head, a ludicrous term for the head, usually connoting stupidity. Evidently a portmanteau of *jobard* a fool + *noil* a head, but evidence of the historical connection is incomplete. "The Giant, heightened by the old-long bonnet and leather on his huge jobbernowl."

JERKINHEAD

(d) The end of a roof that dipped down to the level of the opposite adjoining walls, the gable being carried higher than the level of those walls. Perhaps from *jerk*, as if the slope were jerkily interrupted. "A Jerkinhead is a form of roofing which is half-gable, half-hip. The gable generally goes as high as the ties of the couples, above which the roof is dipped off."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rxd4! Qxd4 2 Qxe6! Nd7 3 Qxb1! bxc6 4 Bb6 mate.

RADIO CHOICE

The riddle of infidelity

The New Sexual Nature. Radio 4, 8.30pm.

Dr Gillian Rice says the key question that everyone is asking is: what does the unfaithful blue tit get out of having a "bit on the side"? Offhand, I can think of three dozen people who are not asking the question and are never likely to. Dr Rice is, of course, a bit of a leg puller. Otherwise, in this programme about polygamy and monogamy, she wouldn't have dared to say, chapter and verse, that there aren't many men around these days who possess the status, wealth and good genes that are needed to make their perfect mates. She ends her series reassuringly. We humans, whether male or female are not wholly at the mercy of biology. We still have a say in shaping our sexual nature.

Horrors of the Horn. Radio 3, 8.15pm.

Sounding like the business end of a rhino, the horn discussed by Michael Thompson and Anthony Halstead in this interval feature is actually the brass instrument. Both men are horn players, and it's a pity we hear neither of them in action in tonight's Pebble Mill concert which includes Brahms's *Trio in E flat, Op 40*, and Ligeti's *Horn Trio*. The horn is a notoriously difficult instrument. Players can never be absolutely sure of hitting the right note. I don't know whether it is Thompson or Halstead, but one of them says the only way to cope with having missed a note is to tell himself that the turn will still rise tomorrow, and the buses will still run.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 4.00am Charlie Jordan with the Early Breakfast Show 6.30 Chris Evans, and Newsbeat with Tina Turner 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Ineson, and at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Dave Warren, and at 5.30-5.45pm Newsbeat, and at 6.00 the Drive-in 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Gong Film 10.00 John Peel Midnight Vibe 11.00

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 5.30 Ed Stewart 5.55 John Dunn 7.00 Hayes over Britain 8.30 Kellogg's Junction (6.45) 9.00 Hooten! 10.00 The Ella Fitzgerald Song Books 10.30 The Jamesons 12.00am Steve Macken including at 1.30 Pause for Thought 3.00-4.00 Alex Lester, including at 3.30 Pause for Thought

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, and 6.55, 7.55 early news 8.00am News, and 10.30 News from Europe 11.30 Environment News 12.00 Midday with Mair, and 12.30pm Moneycheck 1.15 Entertainment News 2.00pm Europe on Five, and 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra, with Valerie Sawston 7.35 The Times City Watch, 10.00 News, Talk, 11.00 Night Extra, and 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy War 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan Ross 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anna Friel 4.00 Scott Crisholm 7.00 Sean Edgar 10.00 James Whale 1.00-6.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Bridge (String Quartet No 1): Khachaturian (Spartacus, Suite No 1); Field (Piano Sonata in B); Danzi (Fantasia); 8.05 Monteverdi (Missa sagra Angelica); Mozart (Overture for a Masque) 9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini, Chopin (Waltz in A flat, L'Adieu); Berioz (Rhapsodie et caprice); Dvorak (O silver moon, Rusalka); Tchaikovsky (Suite No 2 in G) 10.00 Musical Encounters, Artist of the Week, Dawn Upshaw, soprano, sings Falla (Psyché); 10.10 Hindemith (Five pieces for strings); Schreker (Chamber Symphony); Chopin (Scherzo No 3 in B flat minor); Whittam (On the Beach at Night); Haydn (Symphony No 73 in D, Le Chasse) 12.00 Composer of the Week, Schubert (Verschwunden sind die Scherzchen; Overture Die Verjüngte Posten; Gott Höre meine Stimme; Piano Sonata in G, An die Freunde) 1.00pm BBC Festival of Brass 1996, Paul Hindemith presents the first of eight concerts, Williams Fairly Band under James Gourlay and Bryan Hurley play music by Peter Graham, Walton, an Watson, Judith Sphingman and Martin Elsbury 2.00 The BBC Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic in Omen, with Kathryn Stott, soprano, Rossini (Overture, William Tell); Brahms (Piano Concerto No 5 in E flat, Emperor); Elgar (Variations on an Original Theme, Enigma)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing and weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, and 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Call Nick Ross: 0171-590 4444 10.00-10.20 News Vision (FM only). The second of a four-part cultural and natural history of venomous animals looks at Scorpions 10.00 Daily Services (LW only) 10.15 This Soap's Tale (LW only) 10.30 Woman's Hour, Serial: the first part of Joyce Grenell's *Request the Pleasure* 11.30 Medicine Now, with Geoff Watts 12.00 News; You and Yours, with Lesley Riddoch 12.25pm Double Vision, Miles Kingston and Edward Enfield return with the eccentric chat show based on the nice policeman/nasty policeman principle (14) 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (LW only) Shipping Forecast 2.00 News, Books and Company, John Walsh explores the literature of psychoanalysis (1) Comparing Notes with Brian Kay, Brian Kay looks at the current scene in choir schools with Martin Neary from Westminster Abbey and Richard Seal from Salisbury Cathedral 3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brennan 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope.

FREQUENCY GUIDE

RADIO 1, FM 97.8-99.8, RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2, RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6, LW 196; MW 720, RADIO 5, LW 683, 800, WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am), CLASSIC FM, FM 100.1-100.2, VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215, TALK RADIO UK, MW 1053, 1089, Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

Convincing the public is an inexact science

I my garden is bone dry when I go to bed tonight but spotted with puddles when I wake up tomorrow I am entitled to say that it has rained during the night. The fact that I have seen no rain fall is neither here nor there, but a scientist would ask me to consider the possibility that a 757 has emptied its water tanks over my house.

After a great cloud containing radioactive iodine spread along the southern part of Belarusia following the Chernobyl nuclear meltdown in 1986, there were 600 cases of thyroid cancer in children in the area over the next nine years. In the previous 20 years, there had been 20 cases. Ergo, the cloud caused the cancer as surely as the night brought the rain. Certain scientists wish us to believe that doctors have found cancer because they went looking for it.

The conclusion that the radioac-

tive iodine caused the cancer is driven by common sense, which has wider implications. It explains, among other things, why the beef industry has temporarily collapsed: ordinary people take the view that if it looks like a duck and it quacks like a duck then it probably is a duck, whatever Stephen Dorrell might wish us to call it.

Thus was last night's *Horizon* (BBC2) a most timely update on the fallout, so to speak, from Chernobyl. Indeed *Horizon* had much to tell us about the BSE crisis. It had something to teach Mr Dorrell, too, especially concerning his fatal error in believing that the British public regards scientists as people who sit on the right hand of God.

Consider this: "I had one comment from an official in a major organisation saying it was quite wrong that we should have publicised that something was

happening before we had absolute concrete proof and that it created a feeling of panic among the community."

No, not BSE but Chernobyl. Not feed infected from the remains of animals but food and water and the very air infected with radioactive iodine (which should not be confused with "stable iodine", used in many excellent treatments).

Two British scientists, Dr Keith Baverstock of the World Health Organisation and Professor Sir Dillwyn Williams of Cambridge University, have led the field in exposing the link between Chernobyl and thyroid cancer in children. Williams made the remark quoted above. He and Baverstock have made short shrift of the 1992 report, commissioned by the International Atomic Energy Agency, which claimed that there was no evidence of long-term health effects.

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

Horizon, which has done excellent work in pursuing the Chernobyl story over the years, suggested a possible link between that report from the IAEA, which is an American-dominated organisation, and American experiments with radioactive iodine after the Second World War.

Of the material could be investigated. Clearly, any formal recognition that radioactive iodine caused cancer in Belarusia might bring some chickens home to roost back in the USA.

Horizon went to Belarusia, along with Baverstock and Williams. There we met dismayed parents and suffering children, none of whom had been told anything after Chernobyl. Even when soldiers arrived in their towns, washing down their houses and in some cases replacing their roofs with new ones, no reason was offered for this seemingly bizarre behaviour.

That is because in the then Soviet Union, ordinary mortals were not entitled to know anything. In Britain, things are different. The Soviet Union had a shamed media, we have a free one. The British Government says that the beef crisis is caused by "mad newspaper disease". Even if

there is something in that, it is a benign infection, compared with the alternative.

With the exception of *This Life* (BBC2), I detect all soap opera. The rest of the genre is not worth a row of beans, for it creates utterly artificial climates at the end of each episode. Nothing could be further from real life.

Whereas *This Life* involves nothing much happening, but with a lot of panache. The show, with its third episode last night, has the five house mates fully up to speed (and various other drugs). Cleverly, the writer, Amy Jenkins, uses invasion by outsiders to create most of the tensions: last night it was the dreadful bulimic druggie Delilah, alleged "model", and the charming cancer victim McLeary. Junior solicitor Egg, bored with a case about a lorry, gets a fillip when handed the McLeary file.

"The best thing about him is that he isn't a lorry." Unfortunately Egg lets himself get emotionally involved, though not with any encouragement from McLeary.

At one point Egg makes an awkward stab at sympathy, telling McLeary it must be awful to know that you are going to die. McLeary's response throws away the standard textbook on dreary, soap opera pathos: "When are you going to die? No, I don't know either, so we're both in the same boat, mate."

McLeary was pursuing a compensation case because he believed drugs given him as a boy caused the cancer. But it never went to court: McLeary checked into a hospice and took an overdose. It turned out that he knew when he wanted to die.

Egg had learnt a lesson all solicitors need to learn early. As he said: "I think I got it now... McLeary is a lorry."

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (33956)
- 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (78289)
- 9.00am Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (7028840)
- 9.20am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (7438902)
- 9.45am Kilroy (s) (1589395) 10.30 Good Morning (s) (64753)
- 12.00am News (Ceefax) (6290025) 12.05pm Room for Improvement (s) (8070395)
- 12.35pm Going for Gold with the effervescent Henry Kelly (s) (3121753)
- 1.00pm One O'Clock News (Ceefax) (71378)
- 1.30pm Regional News and weather (9483550)
- 1.40pm Neighbours (Ceefax) (44972314)
- 2.00pm FILM: A Twist of the Knife (1993). Medical mystery starring Dick Van Dyke, Suzanne Pleshette and Barry Van Dyke. Directed by Jerry London (61385)
- 3.30pm Playdays (s) (1011208) 3.50pm Badger and Badger (s) (7038482) 4.00pm Alvin and the Chipmunks (5005163)
- 4.10pm Dennis the Menace (Ceefax) (s) (2201395) 4.35pm Out of Tune (Ceefax) (s) (8800005) 5.00pm Newsround (Ceefax) (s) (1502280)
- 5.35pm Neighbours (s) (Ceefax) (s) (367482)
- 6.00pm Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) (53)
- 6.30pm Regional news magazines (55)
- 7.00pm Holiday. Vacation ideas from home and abroad (Ceefax) (s) (6395)
- 7.30pm EastEnders. Peggy's matchmaking begins to annoy Grant (Ceefax) (s) (89)
- 8.00pm Great Ormond Street. Doctors deliberate over whether to operate to remove six-year-old Hayley's cancerous tumour or to continue with a course of chemotherapy (Ceefax) (4550)
- 8.30pm The Brittas Empire. Against the odds, a bright idea from Brittas has become a European directive (4550)
- 9.00pm Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (5260)
- 9.30pm Men Behaving Badly. Gary and Tony stretch the boundaries of good taste even further with Martin Quinn and Neil Morrissey (s) (Ceefax) (s) (59821)
- 10.00pm Cardiac Arrest (Ceefax) (s) (62043) 11.10pm Down the Street of Dreams 11.10pm Cardiac Arrest 11.40pm They Think It's All Over 12.10pm The Road to Golgotha 12.25pm A Reflection for Passover 12.40pm FILM: Jake Speed 2.20pm Weather
- 10.30pm They Think It's All Over. Nick Hancock compares a game of laddish wit and sporting knowledge with David Gower, Gary Lineker, Rory McGrath and Lee Hunt. The guests are Kris Akabou and John Gordon Sinclair (37937)
- 11.30pm The Road to Golgotha. Rob Duncan reflects on the trial of Jesus (s) (37753)
- 11.45pm A Reflection for Passover. With Rabbi Leslie Olsberg (s) (37200)
- 12.00pm FILM: From Noon Till Three (1978) with Charles Bronson and Jill Ireland. Unusually comradely, weedy about a small-time outlaw having an affair with a woman who (believing him dead) turns him into a fictional hero. Directed by Frank D. Gilroy (151613)
- 1.35pm Weather (568845)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes. These allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. To use the Video PlusCodes, simply dial the number in the VideoPlus+ handset, followed by the Video PlusCode. VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY ONE

- 7.00am Under (15453) 8.00am Press. Your Luck (558221) 8.30am Live Connection (155557) 9.00am The Oprah Winfrey Show (555578) 10.00am Jeopardy! (555579) 10.30am Jeopardy! (555579) 11.00am Jeopardy! (555579) 11.30am Jeopardy! (555579) 12.00am Jeopardy! (555579) 12.30am Jeopardy! (555579) 1.00am Jeopardy! (555579) 1.30am Jeopardy! (555579) 2.00am Jeopardy! (555579) 2.30am Jeopardy! (555579) 3.00am Jeopardy! (555579) 3.30am Jeopardy! (555579) 4.00am Jeopardy! (555579) 4.30am Jeopardy! (555579) 5.00am Jeopardy! (555579) 5.30am Jeopardy! (555579) 6.00am Jeopardy! (555579) 6.30am Jeopardy! (555579) 7.00am Jeopardy! (555579) 7.30am Jeopardy! (555579) 8.00am Jeopardy! (555579) 8.30am Jeopardy! (555579) 9.00am Jeopardy! (555579) 9.30am Jeopardy! (555579) 10.00am Jeopardy! (555579) 10.30am Jeopardy! (555579) 11.00am Jeopardy! (555579) 11.30am Jeopardy! (555579) 12.00am Jeopardy! (555579) 12.30am Jeopardy! (555579) 1.00am Jeopardy! (555579) 1.30am Jeopardy! (555579) 2.00am Jeopardy! 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HILLS GAMBLES
PAYING OFF IN
GAME OF PATIENCE

SPORT

TUESDAY APRIL 2 1996

TRIUMPHANT HILL
FOCUSES ON
THE ROAD AHEAD



Muscling in: Kristol, the Oxford cox, lines up with his colleagues for the official Boat Race weigh-in held at the Hurlingham Club yesterday. Photograph: Des Jensen

Crews maintain the balance of probabilities

By Mike Rosewell, Rowing Correspondent

IN A year when followers of rowing seem more uncertain of the outcome of the Boat Race on Saturday than the bookmakers, the official weigh-in at the Hurlingham Club yesterday did little to clarify the situation. Oxford were found to have an advantage of just 1lb per man.

Ladbrokes and William Hill quote Cambridge as favourites, the former at 7-2 on, the latter at 2-1. Oxford are quoted at 9-4 and 6-4 respectively.

Despite Cambridge having the oldest competitor — Nick Burfitt, 29, a veteran of the Seoul and Barcelona Olympics — the average age difference between the crews is also minimal, Cambridge the elder at 23 years nine months, Oxford at 23 years six months.

According to Adam Frost, the Oxford stroke and the youngest performer at 21 years and five months, age is not an issue. In his case, with Great Britain junior honours and an impressive Henley record from 1991 to 1993 in Eton's colours, he could be right. His attitude is a mature one. "The Boat Race is very different from rowing at school level. It's stimulating because it's scary."

The only record of the day was claimed by Ethan Ayer, of the United States. Cambridge's No 5 man and a recipient of one of the university's Alf Twinn rowing bursaries. A tape-measure found him to be 6ft 8½ins tall, beating the height record of 6ft 8½ins set by Gavin Stewart, who stroked Oxford to their win in 1987, the "mutiny" year. Ayer's compatriot, Todd Kristol, the Oxford cox, nearly earned a different height record when he admitted to being 5ft 11in "when my hair is frizzed up", which made him marginally taller than Hart

Massey, who steered Oxford in 1939.

Ayer is also the heaviest man in either crew at 15st 6lb, well outside the 17st 5lb record, but the man behind him in the Cambridge crew, Sebastian Dawson-Bowling, has achieved a post-war landmark in his quest for a Blue, dropping from 16st 10lb last September to a svelte 14st 12lb, despite his 6ft 7in frame.

The weigh-in official, BBC commentator Robert Treharne-Jones, managed to live up to the tradition of April 1 by mistakenly announcing Cambridge as the heavier crew. "It seemed the perfect opportunity," he said. "The weigh-in never goes entirely smoothly."



at least behind the scenes, so from that point of view nothing was really different."

Action on the water yesterday did little to inform onlookers about the race on Saturday, which will start at 3.30. Cambridge, after a week at Nottingham where they suffered mixed weather but had the previously ailing James Ball back in the stroke seat, had two quiet outings on the Tideway.

Oxford also had two gentle paddles in preparation for a race today against a strong Old Blues crew composed of seven members of the present Olympic squad, including Matthew Pinsent.

TODAY'S OUTINGS: Cambridge 10am and 4pm, Oxford 10am and 4.30pm (with Old Blues).

BOAT RACE WEIGHTS

Oxford University

E. J. Bellamy (Hampton, Durham University and Kable) bow 13st 3lb (84kg); D. R. H. Clegg (Radley, University College, London and Kable) 13st 12lb (88kg); J. F. Hammer (Harrow and New College) 13st 5½lb (85kg); D. R. West (Dulwich, King's College, London and St Catherine's) 13st 3lb (84kg); K. Mann (Yale and Kable) 15st ½lb (95.5kg); J. W. Howick (Dartmouth, Concordia and Kable) 13st 4lb (84.5kg); P. A. Barger (Univ of Pennsylvania and University, 14st 13½lb (96kg); A. R. A. Frost (Eton and Oriel) stroke 14st 2½lb (90kg); T. B. Kristol (Harvard and Oriel) 7st 7½lb (48kg); Crew average 13st 12½lb (88.3kg).

Cambridge University

J. R. Elliott (Winchester Coll and Trinity) 13st 7½lb (89kg); M. P. C. Barnett (Harrowgate GS and Queens') 13st 8½lb (88.5kg); N. J. Burfitt (Wimbledon Coll, Imperial and St George's HS, and Emmanuel) 13st 8½lb (88.5kg); S. J. Dawson-Bowling (King's, Canterbury and Magdalen) 14st 12lb (94.5kg); E. Ayer (Harvard and St Edmund's) 15st 6lb (98kg); H. G. C. Clarke (Taurton and Trinity Hall) 13st 11lb (83kg); R. M. Waller (Emmanuel and Downing) 13st 11lb (83kg); J. F. E. Ball (King's, Chesham and Robinson) stroke 13st 3lb (84kg); K. Whymman (King's, Chesham and Peterhouse) 8st ½lb (51kg); Crew average 13st 11½lb (87.7kg).

High prices held responsible for unsold tickets at Cup semi-finals

FA considers more cheap seats

By Peter Ball

THE almost unprecedented sight of rows of empty seats at the FA Cup semi-finals on Sunday has forced the Football Association to review its ticketing structure. Only Chelsea, of the four semi-finalists, sold out their allocation as supporters balked at the high prices.

At Old Trafford, with few £14 seats available, there were more than 10,000 empty places as Liverpool and Aston Villa supporters refused to pay £30 and £38. United also returned tickets for their semi-

final at Villa Park. By contrast, the Scottish Cup semi-final between Celtic and Rangers at Hampden Park this Sunday is a sell-out. Tickets are priced at £13 and £14.

"We have no plans to review our prices. However, our ticket structure may need to be addressed," Steve Double, the FA press officer, said yesterday. "It seems we have too many seats in the top band and not enough cheap seats. Obviously, the demand for tickets was not there at Old Trafford and that was disappointing and unfortunate."

"I can understand Villa fans

staying away as they had been at Wembley the week before. Liverpool fans obviously didn't want to pay those prices, although the seats at Old Trafford afford good views."

The FA, however, has had no qualms, probably rightly, about charging up to £115 to see the Cup Final. Prices for the rematch between the 1977 finalists are £17, £25, £30, £35, £40, £45 and £60 in the open seats, with the Olympic Gallery tickets costing £100 and £115.

The clubs will each get 25,500 tickets, and in both cases demand is likely to outstrip supply. "It is a good spread of prices to suit all fans," Double said. "We don't expect any empty seats at this game."

Empty seats were not the only problem at Villa Park. With the European championship little more than two months away, the bare pitch also gave rise for concern.

"I can't see it being ready unless they turf it," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said yesterday. "It depends on the weather. If they get a hot May, it might be all right, but if they are seeding it, I couldn't see it being ready."

The club is unconcerned, however. Villa's last home game is on April 27 and the

first European championship match at the ground is on June 10, giving them more than six weeks to repair the damage. "The groundsman is starting seeding this week," Steven Stride, the Villa secretary, said yesterday. "It will certainly have recovered by the first match of the championship."

Manchester United will have to pursue the FA Carling Premiership title without their first-choice central defenders, at least until after Easter. Steve Bruce, who joined Gary Pallister on the injured list before the semi-final, is expected to be out with a pulled hamstring for two weeks.

"His hamstring had been

tight all week," Ferguson said. "He was ready to try it on Saturday morning. He did, but it was hopeless — I think he 'pinged' it a little. He might have a wee chance for the game at Southampton on April 13, but it's a worry with Pallister already out."

Pallister's back injury is causing United further concern. There were suggestions yesterday that he hoped to be back in time for the Cup Final. "I hope he is available before that," Ferguson said, "but it is a strange one. He is doing remedial work in the gym and should be much closer in a couple of weeks, but we've got to be patient."

Gareth Southgate is likely to miss the rest of the season after damaging knee ligaments in the Old Trafford game. The injury rules the Aston Villa defender out of England's match against Croatia on April 24 and casts doubt over his participation in the European championship.

Darren Anderton, the England and Tottenham Hotspur midfielder, faces another vital stage in his rehabilitation when he plays against West Ham United reserves at Upton Park tonight. If he comes through unscathed, he could be recalled to the first-team squad for the FA Carling Premiership match at Nottingham Forest on Saturday.

Anderton, 24, has not played since September, when he underwent groin surgery. He has had to endure several setbacks during a lengthy recovery period but played in a reserve-team game against Brighton last week. He was replaced at half-time as a precaution.

"Darren has still got a few aches and pains but that's understandable," Tony Lenghan, the Tottenham physiotherapist, said yesterday. "His muscles are getting used to all the change and that takes time."



Bruce, left, and Pallister, both of whom are injured



United shares sale, page 25

SRU bans lock for 19 months

DAVID MCKENDRICK, the Bigger lock, has received a 19-month suspension from the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) for his part in disturbances that marred his side's 14-6 Tennents Cup victory over Ayr in February.

McKendrick was sent off, along with Kenny Nicol, of Ayr, by Charles Muir, the international panel referee. McKendrick had been involved in an off-the-ball incident earlier in the match which led to Jim Lymburn, the Ayr captain, being taken to hospital with a serious head injury.

That incident was not witnessed by the referee, but the SRU's disciplinary panel yesterday suspended McKendrick until October 18, 1997.

The ban covers 60 playing weeks and is one of the most severe meted out by the SRU, which last season banned Bill Blyth, the Murrayfield prop, for five years for punching in a game against Leith Academicals.

Russ awaits call, page 44

Bruno in running again

By Sri Kumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

FRANK BRUNO may be down but he may not be quite out of the heavyweight picture. He could challenge for the world championship for a fifth time.

It all depends on the next moves of Mike Tyson and Lennox Lewis. If Lewis cannot agree terms with Don King, Tyson's promoter, for his bout with the champion in September, as decreed by the World Boxing Council (WBC), Tyson is likely to give up the title he won from Bruno rather than face Lewis outside King's domain. If that happens, Bruno could have an outside chance of stepping in to challenge for the vacant title. Oliver McCall, of the United States, Henry Akinwande, of Dulwich, and Bruno are the only legitimate contenders the WBC could call on if Tyson did step down.

McCall is the most likely to find favour with the WBC as he has a win over Lewis. But if McCall should not be available, Bruno could be the WBC's choice. As the man who beat McCall and troubled Lewis for six rounds, he is the more solid opponent for Lewis than Akinwande.

Doubts about whether Tyson would meet Lewis were raised when a letter from the WBC to Lewis arrived yester-

day assuring him of a title bout in September but not guaranteeing Tyson as the opponent. In fact, three of the five points in the letter to Lewis were concerned with the WBC's options if Tyson decided to give up the title.

Lewis's financial backer, Panos Eliades, said he was handing the WBC letter to solicitors. Eliades is insisting that Tyson should be the opponent for Lewis, as the Superior Court of New Jersey had ruled recently.

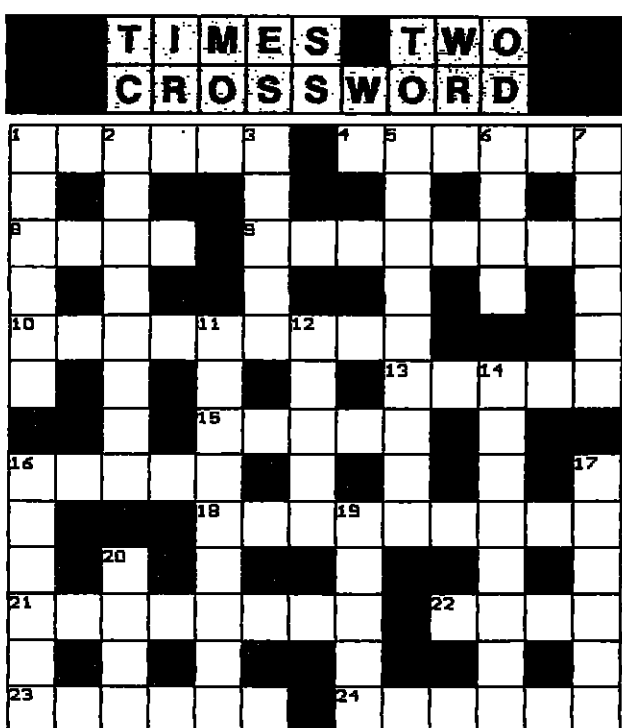
"If the WBC wants me to drop our law suit against it, any agreement will have to have Tyson's signature guaranteeing a fight with Lennox."

Even though the boxing historian in Tyson would resist giving up the belt, he could be forced into it because of commercial considerations bigger even than him. It might be necessary for Tyson to safeguard the interests of Showtime, the United States cable television company that has been behind him since he came out of prison.

If Tyson agreed to defend against Lewis the bout would go to purse offers and Lewis's company, Panix Promotions, supported by Home Box Office (the rival television company to Showtime) could well win the right to stage the bout. That would not suit Showtime or the MGM Grand Hotel, who have contracts with Tyson.



Lewis: seeking Tyson



No 745

ACROSS

- 1 Plaster of Paris basis (6)
- 4 Haunt mind (6)
- 8 Waterless (4)
- 9 Tactful person; member of corps (8)
- 10 Insulting scorn (9)
- 13 Side of cut gem (5)
- 15 Winged spirit; old coin (5)
- 16 Assume; mount (show) (3,2)
- 18 A breaking in (9)
- 21 Mild mental illness (8)
- 22 Look displeased, sulky (4)
- 23 Fair, sincere (6)
- 24 Reed roof (6)

DOWN

- 1 Swift lock (6)
- 2 Arousing sharp sadness (8)
- 3 Computer/network connector (5)
- 5 Inevitable dive (9)
- 6 "The moan of doves in immemorial —" (Tennyson) (4)
- 7 Display; begin (journey) (3,3)
- 11 With one voice (9)
- 12 Gloucester's evil son (Lear) (5)
- 14 Stop that: clip something (from paper) (3,2,3)
- 16 Base for statue (6)
- 17 Grab hastily (6)
- 19 Overturn; hurt (5)
- 20 Change direction (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 744

ACROSS: 1 Pelican 5 Comic 8 Enter 9 Lump sum 10 Merry-go-round 12 Lacuna 14 Lawyer 17 Childie Roland 21 Asocial 22 Shako 23 Mused 24 Midweek
DOWN: 1 Preamble 2 Later 3 Carry-on 4 Nelson 5 Cameo 6 Masonry 7 Camp 11 Gridlock 13 Cahoots 15 Aroused 16 Bedlam 18 Laird 19 Apace 20 Palm

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